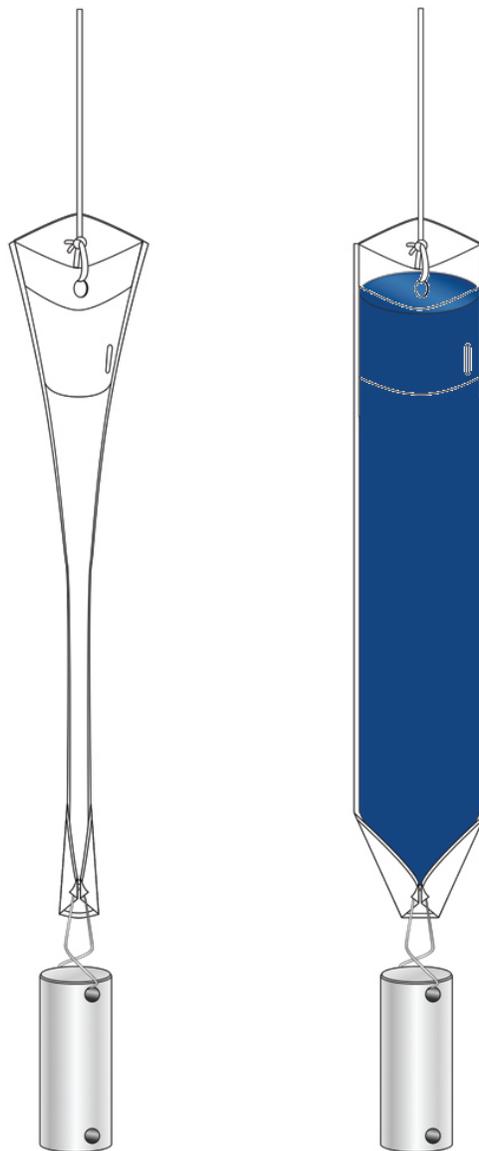


HYDRASleeve™

Simple by Design

US Patent No. 6,481,300; No. 6,837,120 others pending

Standard Operating Procedure: Sampling Ground Water with a HydraSleeve



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This Guide should be used in addition to field manuals appropriate to sampling device (i.e., HydraSleeve or Super Sleeve).

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Applications of the HydraSleeve	1
Description of the HydraSleeve	3
Selecting the HydraSleeve Size to Meet Site-Specific Sampling Objectives.....	4
HydraSleeve Deployment	5
Information Required Before Deploying a HydraSleeve.....	5
HydraSleeve Placement	6
Procedures for Sampling with the HydraSleeve	8
Measurement of Field Indicator Parameters	11
Alternate Deployment Strategies	11
Post-Sampling Activities	14
References.....	15

Introduction

The HydraSleeve is classified as a no-purge (passive) grab sampling device, meaning that it is used to collect ground-water samples directly from the screened interval of a well without having to purge the well prior to sample collection. When it is used as described in this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), the HydraSleeve causes no drawdown in the well (until the sample is withdrawn from the water column) and only minimal disturbance of the water column, because it has a very thin cross section and it displaces very little water (<100 ml) during deployment in the well. The HydraSleeve collects a sample from within the screen only, and it excludes water from any other part of the water column in the well through the use of a self-sealing check valve at the top of the sampler. It is a single-use (disposable) sampler that is not intended for reuse, so there are no decontamination requirements for the sampler itself.

The use of no-purge sampling as a means of collecting representative ground-water samples depends on the natural movement of ground water (under ambient hydraulic head) from the formation adjacent to the well screen through the screen. Robin and Gillham (1987) demonstrated the existence of a dynamic equilibrium between the water in a formation and the water in a well screen installed in that formation, which results in formation-quality water being available in the well screen for sampling at all times. No-purge sampling devices like the HydraSleeve collect this formation-quality water as the sample, under undisturbed (non-pumping) natural flow conditions. Samples collected in this manner generally provide more conservative (i.e., higher concentration) values than samples collected using well-volume purging, and values equivalent to samples collected using low-flow purging and sampling (Parsons, 2005).

Applications of the HydraSleeve

The HydraSleeve can be used to collect representative samples of ground water for all analytes (volatile organic compounds [VOCs], semi-volatile organic compounds [SVOCs], common metals, trace metals, major cations and anions, dissolved gases, total dissolved solids, radionuclides, pesticides, PCBs, explosive compounds, and all other analytical parameters). Designs are available to collect samples from wells from 1" inside diameter and larger. The HydraSleeve can collect samples from wells of any yield, but it is especially well-suited to collecting samples from low-yield wells, where other sampling methods can't be used reliably because their use results in dewatering of the well screen and alteration of sample chemistry (McAlary and Barker, 1987).

The HydraSleeve can collect samples from wells of any depth, and it can be used for single-event sampling or long-term ground-water monitoring programs. Because of its thin cross section and flexible construction, it can be used in narrow, constricted or damaged wells where rigid sampling devices may not fit. Using multiple HydraSleeves deployed in series along a single suspension line or tether, it is also possible to conduct in-well vertical profiling in wells in which contaminant concentrations are thought to be stratified.

As with all groundwater sampling devices, HydraSleeves should not be used to collect groundwater samples from wells in which separate (non-aqueous) phase hydrocarbons (i.e., gasoline, diesel fuel or jet fuel) are present because of the possibility of incorporating some of the separate-phase hydrocarbon into the sample.

Description of the HydraSleeve

The HydraSleeve (Figure 1) consists of the following basic components:

- A suspension line or tether (A.), attached to the spring clip or directly to the top of the sleeve to deploy the device into and recover the device from the well. Tethers with depth indicators marked in 1-foot intervals are available from the manufacturer.
- A long, flexible, 4-mil thick lay-flat polyethylene sample sleeve (C.) sealed at the bottom (this is the sample chamber), which comes in different sizes, as discussed below with a self-sealing reed-type flexible polyethylene check valve built into the top of the sleeve (B.) to prevent water from entering or exiting the sampler except during sample acquisition.
- A reusable stainless-steel weight with clip (D.), which is attached to the bottom of the sleeve to carry it down the well to its intended depth in the water column. Bottom weights available from the manufacturer are 0.75" OD and are available in three sizes: 5 oz. (2.5" long); 8 oz. (4" long); and 16 oz. (8" long). In lieu of a bottom weight, an optional top weight may be attached to the top of the HydraSleeve to carry it to depth and to compress it at the bottom of the well (not shown in Figure 1);
- A discharge tube that is used to puncture the HydraSleeve after it is recovered from the well so the sample can be decanted into sample bottles (not shown).
- Just above the self-sealing check valve at the top of the sleeve are two holes which provide attachment points for the spring clip and/or suspension line or tether. At the bottom of the sample sleeve are two holes which provide attachment points for the weight clip and weight.

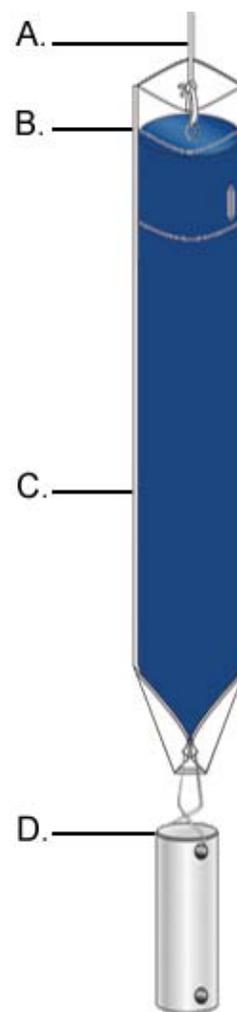


Figure 1. HydraSleeve components.

Note: The sample sleeve and the discharge tube are designed for one-time use and are disposable. The spring clip, weight and weight clip may be reused after thorough cleaning. Suspension cord is generally disposed after one use although, if it is dedicated to the well, it may be reused at the discretion of the sampling personnel.

Selecting the HydraSleeve Size to Meet Site-Specific Sampling Objectives

It is important to understand that each HydraSleeve is able to collect a finite volume of sample because, after the HydraSleeve is deployed, you only get one chance to collect an undisturbed sample. Thus, the volume of sample required to meet your site-specific sampling and analytical requirements will dictate the size of HydraSleeve you need to meet these requirements.

The volume of sample collected by the HydraSleeve varies with the diameter and length of the HydraSleeve. Dimensions and volumes of available HydraSleeve models are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. Dimensions and volumes of HydraSleeve models.

Diameter	Volume	Length	Lay-Flat Width	Filled Dia.
<i>2-Inch HydraSleeves</i>				
Standard 625-ml HydraSleeve	625 ml	< 30"	2.5"	1.4"
Standard 1-Liter HydraSleeve	1 Liter	38"	3"	1.9"
1-Liter HydraSleeve SS	1 Liter	36"	3"	1.9"
2-Liter HydraSleeve SS	2 Liters	60"	3"	1.9"
<i>4-Inch HydraSleeves</i>				
Standard 1.6-Liter HydraSleeve	1.6 Liters	30"	3.8"	2.3"
Custom 2-Liter HydraSleeve	2 Liters	36"	4"	2.7"

HydraSleeves can be custom-fabricated by the manufacturer in varying diameters and lengths to meet specific volume requirements. HydraSleeves can also be deployed in series (i.e., multiple HydraSleeves attached to one tether) to collect additional sample to meet specific volume requirements, as described below.

If you have questions regarding the availability of sufficient volume of sample to satisfy laboratory requirements for analysis, it is recommended that you contact the laboratory to discuss the minimum volumes needed for each suite of analytes. Laboratories often require only 10% to 25% of the volume they specify to complete analysis for specific suites of analytes, so they can often work with much smaller sample volumes that can easily be supplied by a HydraSleeve.

HydraSleeve Deployment

Information Required Before Deploying a HydraSleeve

Before installing a HydraSleeve in any well, you will need to know the following:

- The inside diameter of the well
- The length of the well screen
- The water level in the well
- The position of the well screen in the well
- The total depth of the well

The inside diameter of the well is used to determine the appropriate HydraSleeve diameter for use in the well. The other information is used to determine the proper placement of the HydraSleeve in the well to collect a representative sample from the screen (see HydraSleeve Placement, below), and to determine the appropriate length of tether to attach to the HydraSleeve to deploy it at the appropriate position in the well.

Most of this information (with the exception of the water level) should be available from the well log; if not, it will have to be collected by some other means. The inside diameter of the well can be measured at the top of the well casing, and the total depth of the well can be measured by sounding the bottom of the well with a weighted tape. The position and length of the well screen may have to be determined using a down-hole camera if a well log is not available. The water level in the well can be measured using any commonly available water-level gauge.

HydraSleeve Placement

The HydraSleeve is designed to collect a sample directly from the well screen, and it fills by pulling it up through the screen a distance equivalent to 1 to 1.5 times its length. This upward motion causes the top check valve to open, which allows the device to fill. To optimize sample recovery, it is recommended that the HydraSleeve be placed in the well so that the bottom weight rests on the bottom of the well and the top of the HydraSleeve is as close to the bottom of the well screen as possible. This should allow the sampler to fill before the top of the device reaches the top of the screen as it is pulled up through the water column, and ensure that only water from the screen is collected as the sample. In short-screen wells, or wells with a short water column, it may be necessary to use a top-weight on the HydraSleeve to compress it in the bottom of the well so that, when it is recovered, it has room to fill before it reaches the top of the screen.

Example

2" ID PVC well, 50' total depth, 10' screen at the bottom of the well, with water level above the screen (the entire screen contains water).

Correct Placement (figure 2): Using a standard HydraSleeve for a 2" well (2.6" flat width/1.5" filled OD x 30" long, 650 ml volume), deploy the sampler so the weight (an 8 oz., 4"-long weight with a 2"-long clip) rests at the bottom of the well. The top of the sleeve is thus set at about 36" above the bottom of the well. When the sampler is recovered, it will be pulled upward approximately 30" to 45" before it is filled; therefore, it is full (and the top check valve closes) at approximately 66" (5 ½ feet) to 81" (6 ¾ feet) above the bottom of the well, which is well before the sampler reaches the top of the screen. In this example, only water from the screen is collected as a sample.

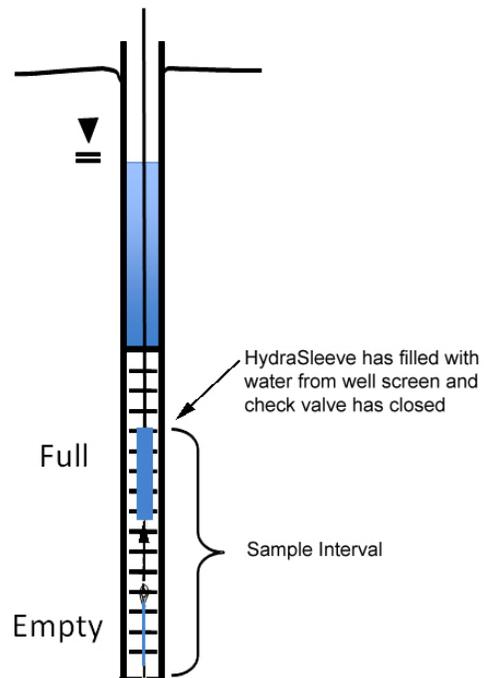


Figure 2. Correct placement of HydraSleeve.

Incorrect Placement (figure 3): If the well screen in this example was only 5' long, and the HydraSleeve was placed as above, it would not fill before the top of the device reached the top of the well screen, so the sample would include water from above the screen, which may not have the same chemistry.

The solution? Deploy the HydraSleeve with a top weight, so that it is collapsed to within 6" to 9" of the bottom of the well. When the HydraSleeve is recovered, it will fill within 39" (3 ¼ feet) to 54" (4 ½ feet) above the bottom of the well, or just before the sampler reaches the top of the screen, so it collects only water from the screen as the sample.

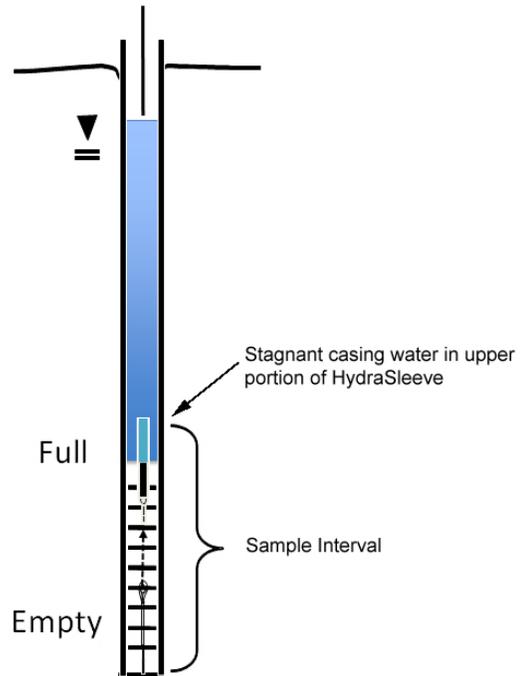


Figure 3. Incorrect placement of HydraSleeve.

This example illustrates one of many types of HydraSleeve placements. More complex placements are discussed in a later section.

Procedures for Sampling with the HydraSleeve

Collecting a ground-water sample with a HydraSleeve is a simple one-person operation.

Note: Before deploying the HydraSleeve in the well, collect the depth-to-water measurement that you will use to determine the preferred position of the HydraSleeve in the well. This measurement may also be used with measurements from other wells to create a ground-water contour map. If necessary, also measure the depth to the bottom of the well to verify actual well depth to confirm your decision on placement of the HydraSleeve in the water column.

Measure the correct amount of tether needed to suspend the HydraSleeve in the well so that the weight will rest on the bottom of the well (or at your preferred position in the well). Make sure to account for the need to leave a few feet of tether at the top of the well to allow recovery of the sleeve

Note: Always wear sterile gloves when handling and discharging the HydraSleeve.

I. Assembling the HydraSleeve

1. Remove the HydraSleeve from its packaging, unfold it, and hold it by its top.
2. Crimp the top of the HydraSleeve by folding the hard polyethylene reinforcing strips at the holes.
3. Attach the spring clip to the holes to ensure that the top will remain open until the sampler is retrieved.
4. Attach the tether to the spring clip by tying a knot in the tether.

Note: Alternatively, attach the tether to one (NOT both) of the holes at the top of the Hydrasleeve by tying a knot in the tether.

5. Fold the flaps with the two holes at the bottom of the HydraSleeve together and slide the weight clip through the holes.
6. Attach a weight to the bottom of the weight clip to ensure that the HydraSleeve will descend to the bottom of the well.

II. Deploying the HydraSleeve

1. Using the tether, carefully lower the HydraSleeve to the bottom of the well, or to your preferred depth in the water column

During installation, hydrostatic pressure in the water column will keep the self-sealing check valve at the top of the HydraSleeve closed, and ensure that it retains its flat, empty profile for an indefinite period prior to recovery.

Note: Make sure that it is not pulled upward at any time during its descent. If the HydraSleeve is pulled upward at a rate greater than 0.5'/second at any time prior to recovery, the top check valve will open and water will enter the HydraSleeve prematurely.

2. Secure the tether at the top of the well by placing the well cap on the top of the well casing and over the tether.

Note: Alternatively, you can tie the tether to a hook on the bottom of the well cap (you will need to leave a few inches of slack in the line to avoid pulling the sampler up as the cap is removed at the next sampling event).

III. Equilibrating the Well

The equilibration time is the time it takes for conditions in the water column (primarily flow dynamics and contaminant distribution) to restabilize after vertical mixing occurs (caused by installation of a sampling device in the well).

- Situation: The HydraSleeve is deployed for the first time or for only one time in a well

The HydraSleeve is very thin in cross section and displaces very little water (<100 ml) during deployment so, unlike most other sampling devices, it does not disturb the water column to the point at which long equilibration times are necessary to ensure recovery of a representative sample.

In most cases, the HydraSleeve can be recovered immediately (with no equilibration time) or within a few hours. In regulatory jurisdictions that impose specific requirements for equilibration times prior to recovery of no-purge sampling devices, these requirements should be followed.

- Situation: The HydraSleeve is being deployed for recovery during a future sampling event

In periodic (i.e., quarterly or semi-annual) sampling programs, the sampler for the current sampling event can be recovered and a new sampler (for the next sampling event)

deployed immediately thereafter, so the new sampler remains in the well until the next sampling event.

Thus, a long equilibration time is ensured and, at the next sampling event, the sampler can be recovered immediately. This means that separate mobilizations, to deploy and then to recover the sampler, are not required. HydraSleeves can be left in a well for an indefinite period of time without concern.

IV. HydraSleeve Recovery and Sample Collection

1. Hold on to the tether while removing the well cap.
2. Secure the tether at the top of the well while maintaining tension on the tether (but without pulling the tether upwards)
3. Measure the water level in the well.
4. In one smooth motion, pull the tether up between 30” to 45” (36” to 54” for the longer HydraSleeve) at a rate of about 1’ per second (or faster).

The motion will open the top check valve and allow the HydraSleeve to fill (it should fill in about 1 to 1.5 times the length of the HydraSleeve). This is analogous to coring the water column in the well from the bottom up.

When the HydraSleeve is full, the top check valve will close. You should begin to feel the weight of the HydraSleeve on the tether and it will begin to displace water. The closed check valve prevents loss of sample and entry of water from zones above the well screen as the HydraSleeve is recovered.

5. Continue pulling the tether upward until the HydraSleeve is at the top of the well.
6. Decant and discard the small volume of water trapped in the Hydrasleeve above the check valve by turning the sleeve over.

V. Sample Collection

Note: Sample collection should be done immediately after the HydraSleeve has been brought to the surface to preserve sample integrity.

1. Remove the discharge tube from its sleeve.
2. Hold the HydraSleeve at the check valve.
3. Puncture the HydraSleeve just below the check valve with the pointed end of the discharge tube
4. Discharge water from the HydraSleeve into your sample containers.

Control the discharge from the HydraSleeve by either raising the bottom of the sleeve, by squeezing it like a tube of toothpaste, or both.

5. Continue filling sample containers until all are full.

Measurement of Field Indicator Parameters

Field indicator parameter measurement is generally done during well purging and sampling to confirm when parameters are stable and sampling can begin. Because no-purge sampling does not require purging, field indicator parameter measurement is not necessary for the purpose of confirming when purging is complete.

If field indicator parameter measurement is required to meet a specific non-purging regulatory requirement, it can be done by taking measurements from water within a HydraSleeve that is not used for collecting a sample to submit for laboratory analysis (i.e., a second HydraSleeve installed in conjunction with the primary sample collection HydraSleeve [see Multiple Sampler Deployment below]).

Alternate Deployment Strategies

Deployment in Wells with Limited Water Columns

For wells in which only a limited water column exists to be sampled, the HydraSleeve can be deployed with an optional top weight instead of a bottom weight, which collapses the HydraSleeve to a very short (approximately 6” to 9”) length, and allows the HydraSleeve to fill in a water column only 36” to 45” in height.

Multiple Sampler Deployment

Multiple sampler deployment in a single well screen can accomplish two purposes:

- It can collect additional sample volume to satisfy site or laboratory-specific sample volume requirements.
- It can accommodate the need for collecting field indicator parameter measurements.
- It can be used to collect samples from multiple intervals in the screen to allow identification of possible contaminant stratification.

It is possible to use up to 3 standard 30” HydraSleeves deployed in series along a single tether to collect samples from a 10’ long well screen without collecting water from the interval above the screen.

The samplers must be attached to the tether at both the top and bottom of the sleeve. Attach the tether at the top with a stainless-steel clip (available from the manufacturer). Attach the tether at the bottom using a cable tie. The samplers must be attached as follows (figure 4):

- The first (attached to the tether as described above, with the weight at the bottom) at the bottom of the screen
- The second attached immediately above the first
- The third (attached the same as the second) immediately above the second

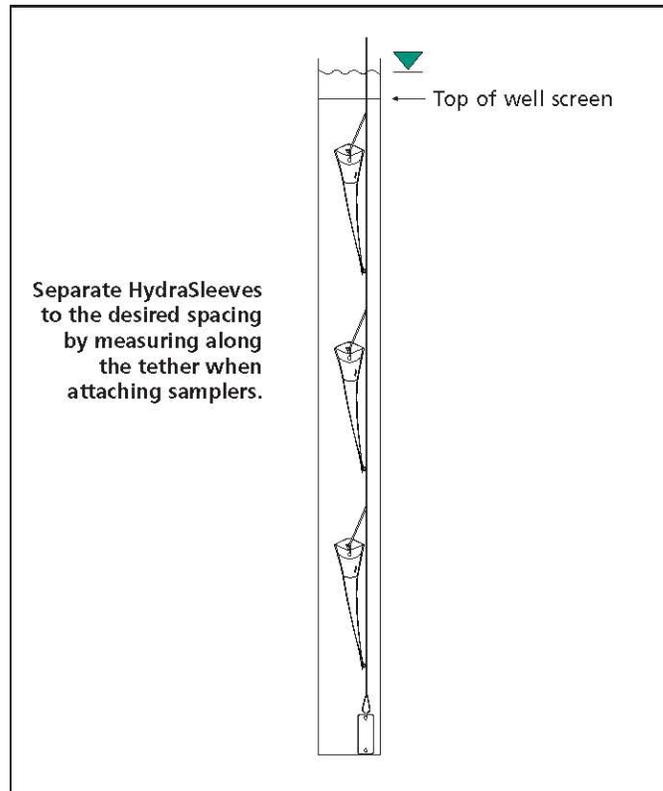


Figure 4. Multiple HydraSleeve deployment.

Alternately, the first sampler can be attached to the tether as described above, a second attached to the bottom of the first using a short length of tether (in place of the weight), and the third attached to the bottom of the second in the same manner, with the weight attached to the bottom of the third sampler (figure 5).

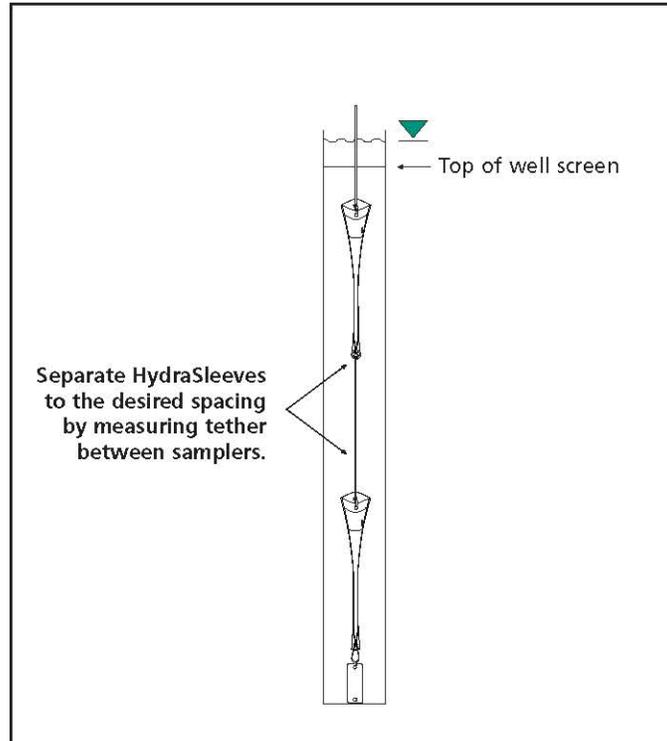


Figure 5. Alternative method for deploying multiple HydraSleeves.

In either case, when attaching multiple HydraSleeves in series, more weight may be required to hold the samplers in place in the well than would be required with a single sampler. Recovery of multiple samplers and collection of samples is done in the same manner as for single sampler deployments.

Post-Sampling Activities

The recovered HydraSleeve and the sample discharge tubing should be disposed as per the solid waste management plan for the site. To prepare for the next sampling event, a new HydraSleeve can be deployed in the well (as described previously) and left in the well until the next sampling event, at which time it can be recovered.

The weight and weight clip can be reused on this sampler after they have been thoroughly cleaned as per the site equipment decontamination plan. The tether may be dedicated to the well and reused or discarded at the discretion of sampling personnel.

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