

Levellogger General Information

What is the difference between a Levellogger and Barologger?

- Levelloggers record changes in absolute pressure (water column pressure + barometric pressure) with time. The Barologger functions and communicates similarly to the Levellogger, but is used above the water level to record ambient barometric pressure in order to barometrically correct data recorded by the Levelloggers. Typically one Barologger can cover a radius of 30 km (20 miles) and/or every 300 m (1000 ft) elevation change.
- See Technical Bulletin: [Barometric Compensation and the Importance of Barometric Data](#)

What is the difference between absolute and vented (gauged) pressure sensors?

- See Technical Bulletin: [Absolute Vs Vented Water Level Dataloggers – Which Method Is Right For Your Project?](#)

How do I select the correct pressure range of Levellogger for my application?

- The choice of pressure range largely depends on the accuracy of the water level required and the desired submergence depth. The selection, however, should be based on the maximum anticipated water level fluctuation.
- Example: The Levellogger 5 M5 is designed for 5 meters or 15 feet submergence and provides a typical water level accuracy of ± 3 mm (0.01 ft). This instrument is ideally suited for surface water and shallow groundwater applications, where precise water level measurements are essential.
- If, however, the anticipated water level fluctuation will be greater than the designed range, then the next available range should be chosen for that application.
- Example: 10 meters (30 feet) water level fluctuation is expected. To protect from possible over-ranging, the next available pressure range instrument (Levellogger 5 M20) should be selected.

How do I know that I'm using the most current version of software and firmware?

- The most current Levellogger software and firmware versions are available on the Solinst website [Downloads](#) page. You can check from time-to-time to see if you have the most current version, or by registering your software when you download it, you will receive automatic email messages notifying you when new software or firmware becomes available.
- In addition, when using Levellogger Software Version (4.0.1 and up) on a computer with an Internet connection, automatic notifications will be provided when new software and firmware releases are available. Clicking on the notification message will take you right to the software/firmware download page.

Do I have to pay for software and firmware?

- No, all current software and firmware versions are available to download free from the Solinst website. If you register your software when you download it, you will receive automatic notices when new software or firmware has been released.
- See Solinst [Downloads](#) page

How do I update the software?

- Download new software versions free from the Solinst website as they become available.
- See Solinst [Downloads](#) page

How do I update Levellogger firmware?

- Levellogger software comes equipped with a "Firmware Upgrade Utility". As new firmware versions become available they can be downloaded free from the Solinst website and uploaded to your Levellogger using the Utility. Ensure the software is the latest version, as it contains the most recent Firmware Upgrade Utility.
- See Solinst [Downloads](#) page

Levellogger Applications

What types of applications are Levelloggers suited for?

Levelloggers are suited for the following applications:

- Long-term groundwater monitoring
- River, lake, stream gauging
- Water resource management
- Aquifer tests – pumping, slug, step, recovery
- Remote monitoring with telemetry applications
- Harbor and tidal fluctuation and wave action monitoring
- Industrial tank level monitoring
- Management of water taking/pumping
- Watershed or drainage basin recharge studies
- Wetlands and storm water runoff monitoring
- Long-term water level monitoring in wells
- Dam, reservoir, lock monitoring
- Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) and storm water management
- Dewatering projects
- Aquifer storage and recovery observation
- Salt water intrusion and soil salination monitoring
- Plume remediation monitoring and studies
- Leachate monitoring at landfills, mine tailings, wastes disposal storage sites
- PFAS monitoring applications
- Tracer tests
- Agricultural and stormwater runoff monitoring
- [And more...](#)

Can the Levellogger be used for continuous groundwater monitoring?

- Yes, Levelloggers are self-contained dataloggers designed to continuously record water level and temperature fluctuations over time. Levelloggers are available in a number of different pressure ranges, which can be used for shallow piezometers to deep pumping well monitoring. The Solinst Levellogger software package includes features that allow you to incorporate manual water level field measurements; conduct barometric compensations; or adjust the data relative to another reference point (depth to water, ground surface elevation, etc.).
- Remote monitoring via telemetry is also an option.

Can the Levellogger be used in pumping tests?

- Yes, Levelloggers are excellent to use during all pumping tests. The Levellogger 5 and Levellogger 5 LTC can be programmed with a customized sampling schedule that sets the rates at which water level data is collected for a number of separate intervals. You can customize different sampling rates and durations to record water level readings before, during and after the pumping test (baseline, pumping and recovery). If deployed on a direct read cable, real-time Levellogger readings can be viewed and saved on a laptop computer or smart device during the pumping test.
- See Technical Bulletin: [Simplify Your Pumping Test...Use a Water Level Datalogger](#)

Levellogger 5 Series Frequently Asked Questions

Can I place a Levellogger beside an electric down hole pump?

- Yes, due to the Faraday cage design, all of the data recorded internally by the Levellogger will be unaffected from nearby electrical noise. Ideally, however, when deploying a Levellogger in a well with a pump, the Levellogger should be placed beyond any potential interference/turbulence effects from the pump's intake. If a Direct Read Cable is used, a separate insertion pipe, that is grounded, is also recommended to prevent potential electrical interference with communication when collecting or viewing data running in Real-Time mode. In the absence of a grounded insertion pipe, ensure the pump is shutoff before interfacing through the Direct Read Cable.

Are Levelloggers suited for surface water applications?

- Yes, the M5 Levellogger 5, Levellogger 5 Junior and Levellogger 5 LTC instruments utilize a highly sensitive pressure sensor for precise water level accuracy and resolution, ideally suited for surface water applications (lakes, wetland, watershed, river or stream gauging). The Levellogger 5 M5 used in tandem with a Barologger 5 can attain water level accuracies of ± 8 mm/ 0.017 ft.
- Also, consider using the Solinst [LevelVent 5](#) or [AquaVent 5](#) vented water level dataloggers for highest accuracy in shallow water applications.

Can Levelloggers be used in saltwater environments?

- Yes, the Levellogger 5, Levellogger 5 Junior, and Levellogger 5 LTC can be used in short-term to long-term monitoring in salt water or brackish environments. The Levellogger 5 and Levellogger 5 LTC have a corrosion-resistant coating. However, in harsher environments, you can protect the Levellogger 5 Junior using a balloon filled with non-corrosive/ non-toxic fluid (tap water). As pressure changes, the fluid encasing the loggers will transmit the pressure differential to the logger's pressure transducer, without exposing it to corrosive conditions. Refer to the Levellogger Series User Guide for further maintenance recommendations.

Can I use the same Levellogger in a shallow stream and then in a deep water well?

- Yes, but as with any pressure sensor, be aware that when selecting a higher range sensor (e.g.. M100) it provides less accuracy than a lower range sensor (e.g. M5). Choose a pressure range that best meets the needs of your monitoring program (without submerging beyond the calibrated range).

Can I use Solinst Levelloggers in my PFAS monitoring project?

- Yes, PFAS is not used or knowingly present in the manufacture or production of Solinst Products. The wetted materials for the Levellogger 5 are: corrosion-resistant PTFE coating baked-on using polymerization technology, acetal/Delrin® nose cone, filter and top cap, 316L SS, Hastelloy pressure sensor, and a Viton® o-ring. The Levellogger 5 LTC also includes: An acetal conductivity cell and Platinum clad Niobium core wires.

Can I use Solinst Levelloggers in groundwater with a pH of 4?

- As recommended with all our Products, before starting any environmental monitoring project, it is essential to take some steps to evaluate whether the equipment you choose will work as expected in your specific monitoring location. This means comparing the wetted materials of your Levellogger with the conditions and chemicals you expect to encounter in you monitoring project – including pH.

Installation

How deep can I install my Levellogger?

- The depth of submergence for the Levellogger (at the highest expected water level) is based on the specified pressure range for the instrument. The Levellogger 5 and Levellogger 5 LTC are available in the following pressure ranges:

<u>Pressure Range:</u>	<u>Maximum Submergence to Achieve Stated Accuracy:</u>
M5	5 meters (15 feet)
M10	10 meters (30 feet)
M20	20 meters (65 feet)
M30	30 meters (100 feet)
M100	100 meters (300 feet)
M200	200 meters (600 feet)

- The Levellogger 5 Junior is available in M5 and M10 pressure ranges.

Note: Levellogger 5 and Edge Series dataloggers can be over-pressurized 2 times (1.5 times for Gold Models) the stated submergence/calibrated range without damage to the pressure sensor, allowing for deployment flexibility.

How do I install my Levellogger in a groundwater well?

- Since Levelloggers are designed to record water level and temperature fluctuations over time (conductivity available with Levellogger 5 LTC), for successful performance in a groundwater application, they should be installed just below the lowest expected water level for that well.
- Levelloggers are installed by using either a suspension line or direct read deployment. In both deployment options the instruments are freely suspended, from the top of the well to the desired depth, via a support line (stainless steel or Kevlar cord) or a direct read communication cable. The suspension wire offers a lower-cost installation method that is ideal for shallow groundwater wells. The Direct Read Cable enables communication with the deployed Levellogger at the well head.
- See the Solinst [Levellogger Deployment and Communication Guide](#)

How do I install my Levellogger in a surface water application?

- For installations within rivers, streams, wetlands, lakes and watershed or drainage basin monitoring, the shallowest pressure range Levellogger (M5) should be considered.
- Also, consider using the Solinst [LevelVent](#) 5 or [AquaVent](#) 5 vented water level dataloggers for highest accuracy in shallow water applications.
- For direct installation in streams or rivers, stilling wells can be constructed which shield the instrument from the water turbulence. Alternatively, Levelloggers can be lowered into a protective pipe or casing and then attached to a permanent fixture such as a bridge, pier or hand driven marker/rod.
- In these types of applications, Solinst recommends that a Barologger also be used, to accurately account for barometric pressure fluctuations.
- See Technical Bulletins: [Long-term Open Channel and Surface Water Monitoring with Levelloggers](#) and [Absolute Vs Vented Water Level Dataloggers – Which Method Is Right For Your Project?](#)

How do I install my Barologger?

- The Barologger is designed to record barometric pressure fluctuations, and hence should be placed where it can capture changes in atmospheric conditions. For groundwater or surface water applications, it is recommended that the Barologger be suspended in a monitoring well or stilling well above the highest expected water level. The Barologger should be installed in a similar thermal environment to that of the Levelloggers. Typically one Barologger can cover a radius of 30 km (20 mile) and/or every 300 m (1000 ft) elevation change.

Should I use the [Zero Point](#) of the Levellogger, or measure the length of a deployed Kevlar Cord, Wire Line, or Direct Read Cable to calculate water levels?

- Accurately measuring the length of the deployment assembly/ cord, can be problematic—especially in the field, where you don't want the deployment to come in contact with the (dirty) ground surface. Also, to achieve consistent accurate measurements, you would need to ensure that you have the same amount of measured tension on each assembly. Without having a consistent amount of pulled tension, your measured accuracy will likely be much less than that of the Levellogger. Measuring deployed assemblies to determine water levels, is typically not practical, nor needed.
- Before deployment, and before each data download, Solinst recommends measuring the depth to water with a highly accurate water level meter, as well as recording the clock time. Using the Levellogger Software, you now have the ability to add all of your specific clock time "Field Zero" readings into the [Data Wizard](#), allowing all water level readings to be accurately adjusted to that specific clock time and depth.

Monitoring

What software features are available for my monitoring needs?

- The Levellogger 5 and Levellogger 5 LTC can be programmed using Linear, Event-based, or a Customized Schedule.
- Linear: refers to a set time interval between data collection. The sample rate can be set as fast as 0.125 seconds to 99 hours. This method is commonly used for both short term and long term monitoring, respectively. The desired sampling rate is based on how much data is required in the project specifications.
- Event-based: allows the user to define a sampling interval (similar to the linear mode) however, the Levellogger will only record if the parameter value has changed by a defined threshold from the last reading. Event-based sampling can be set for specific changes in water level, temperature, or conductivity. This sampling mode is ideal for remote monitoring when only significant events are to be recorded.
- Schedule: allows you to set a number of time intervals, each with its own defined sampling rate. This sampling mode is ideal for aquifer tests (slug, pumping, recovery or step) where a fast sampling rate is used at the beginning and/or end of the test to capture the draw-down and recovery. The sampling rate can be gradually decreased over time (similar to logarithmic sampling).

Is barometric pressure important?

- Yes. All Levelloggers measure total or absolute pressure. When the Levellogger is submerged, it is recording a combination of barometric pressure + water pressure. The actual water level is obtained by removing barometric pressure effects.
- Solinst recommends the use of the Barologger in tandem with the submersible Levelloggers. The Levellogger software includes a Data Wizard, which guides the user through the automated process of barometric compensation of their data.
- See Technical Bulletin: [Barometric Compensation and the Importance of Barometric Data](#)

What if I do not have a Barologger?

(How to conduct manual barometric compensations)

- When the Levellogger is submerged, it is recording the combination of barometric pressure + water pressure. Locally collected weather data can be used to barometrically correct the Levellogger data if data from an on-site Barologger is not available.
- See Technical Bulletin: [Barometric Compensation and the Importance of Barometric Data](#)

How many Barologgers do I need?

- As a rule of thumb, one Barologger for a 30 km (20 mile) radius and/or every 300 m (1000 ft) change in elevation should be sufficient to capture local variations in barometric pressure.

Should I consider the altitude or elevation of my deployed dataloggers?

- Yes. Water column equivalent pressure decreases with an increase in altitude at a rate of approximately 1.2:1000 in the lower atmosphere below 5000 m (16,400 ft). This equates to about 0.5 psi per 1000 ft increase in elevation (37 cm of water column height).
- For the Levellogger 5 and Edge Series dataloggers, compensation can be done post data collection using the Data Wizard in the Levellogger Series Software (4.5 and up).
- See Blog Post: [Accounting For Altitude When Compensating Levellogger Data](#)

Should I take manual water level measurements?

- Yes, Solinst strongly recommends that manual water level measurements be taken during the monitoring period. The Levellogger software allows the user to enter manual water level measurements to field zero the data with known values. This practice helps to ensure the accuracy of the data and also allows the user to change the datum reference point for the data set.
- If the reference datum or measuring point (e.g. top of well casing) is above water level, the field zero (measure depth to water) must be input as a positive value. If the reference datum is below water level (e.g. artesian condition), a negative value is input. The date and time of measurement of the reference datum must be recorded and input to complete the adjustment.

Maintenance and Proper Use

- See Technical Bulletin: [Ensuring Proper Use and Maintenance of Levelloggers](#)

What if I submerge my Levellogger deeper than the specified range?

- The Levellogger 5, Levellogger 5 Junior and Levellogger 5 LTC can withstand over-pressurization of 2 times the specified range, e.g. a Model M10 can accommodate a fluctuation of 20 meters or 60 feet and still record pressure without damage. However, over-range accuracy is not guaranteed.

How long will the batteries in my Levellogger last and are they replaceable?

- The Battery life of the Levellogger 5 is 10 years, based on 1 reading per minute. Readings that are more rapid will reduce the battery life. For example, if a Levellogger 5 is programmed in Continuous Mode at a sampling rate of 1 second, the battery will be depleted in approximately 4 months. The internal batteries are factory replaceable.
- Note: The Levellogger 5 Junior has a battery life of 5 years based on 1 reading per minute and Levellogger 5 LTC has a battery life of 8 years based on 1 reading every 5 minutes.
- Drastic temperature changes beyond operating temperatures might cause battery damage or reduced battery life.
- See Technical Bulletin: [Understanding Battery Life](#)

Is pressure recalibration necessary? When?

- Levelloggers have a lifetime factory calibration, and do not require recalibration if used in the specified range. Recalibration may be required if the Levellogger is over-pressurized by more than 2 times their intended pressure range, used in unsuitable environments, or physically damaged.
- See Technical Bulletin: [Understanding Pressure Sensor Accuracy, Precision, Resolution & Drift](#)

Is my Levellogger repairable?

- Yes, Levellogger 5 Series dataloggers are fully serviceable at Solinst. Please contact Solinst for service options and details for older generation dataloggers.

How do I protect my Levellogger from freezing?

- The operating temperature range in a liquid, for the Levellogger is between -20° to 80°C (-4° to 180°F). To avoid icing/freezing and transducer damage, the easiest method is to lower the transducer to a point in the water column below the frost line or ice formation depth.
- In water bodies such as shallow streams, wetlands or ponds where icing/freezing may penetrate to the bottom, install the Levellogger in a vented stilling well imbedded into the bottom of the water body beyond the frost line.
- If this is not possible, place the Levellogger inside two elongated silicon, rubber or latex balloons filled with a non-toxic, non-corrosive anti-freeze solution or saltwater solution. Place the balloons in a section of perforated, 30 mm (1.25") ID pipe and install the logger in the monitored water. The antifreeze solution will protect the Levellogger from ice expansion at the pressure transducer, yet transmit any pressure and temperature fluctuations that occur.
- Note: Although precautions can be taken, placing a Levellogger in a situation where the water may freeze solid can permanently damage the sensor.

How can I protect my Levellogger from corrosive or marine environments?

- The Levellogger 5 and Levellogger 5 LTC have a corrosion-resistant coating that is baked-on using polymerization technology (inside and out). In harsher chemical environments, you can protect the Levellogger using a balloon filled with non-corrosive/non-toxic fluid (tap water). As pressure changes, the fluid encasing the logger will transmit the pressure differential to the logger's pressure transducer, without exposing it to corrosive conditions.

How can I clean my Levellogger LTC Conductivity Sensor?

- The pins of the LTC conductivity sensor are platinum-coated, therefore they should not be roughly cleaned or touched with any metal. They can be cleaned with a soft bristle brush, Q-tip, or cloth. Almost any acid solution can be selected to clean the sensor, provided it is highly diluted (generally less than 10% acid). The "soaking" time should be monitored and kept to a minimum. Refer to the Levellogger Series User Guide for further general maintenance recommendations.