

Testing Pool and Spa Water with Test Kits

The following information provides general guidelines on measuring chlorine levels and pH. Be sure to read and follow manufacturer's instructions and storage of test kits.

BEFORE YOU TEST THE WATERS

- Know how the kit works before you visit a pool or spa. You will be adding drops of a reagent to a sample of pool water in a small vial, and then comparing the color of the sample to colors on the test vial.
- It is important that the testing is done in a well-lit area, preferably in natural sunlight.
- The number of drops to add, the length of time wait to complete the test and the amount of water added to the vial varies among test kits. **Read and follow the directions for use on each strip bottle.**
- Store test kits in a cool, dry area. Kits can be damaged if stored in direct sunlight or in hot areas.

TESTING THE WATERS

When you arrive at the pool, test the water. The instructions in the test kit will tell you how to measure **chlorine residual** and **pH**.



In most cases, enjoy your swimming if ...

- Chlorine residual is 1 ppm to 4 ppm
- pH is 7.2 to 7.8

You may want to speak with the lifeguard or pool manager/operator if...

- Chlorine residual is less than 1 ppm or greater than 4 ppm (note: some states allow higher residuals – you can check with your local health department to learn the rules for your state)
- pH is less than 7.2 or greater than 7.8

Important questions to ask:

- When was the pool water last tested by someone on the pool staff? (The CDC recommends that pH and disinfectant levels should be tested at least twice per day.)
- What were the results of that testing? (The results should match the requirements for your state.)

By doing this simple test, you can help ensure that the pool is adequately protected for the safety of you and your family.

