

Quick Guide to Pool & Hot Tub Water Testing

Why do you need to test and treat water?

If water remains untreated it, will it will quickly deteriorate and become cloudy and unpleasant. Therefore, treatment is essential but the water needs testing regularly to ensure treatment is sufficient and to make sure your family and friends are safe. The aims of testing are:

- To ensure chemical levels are correct
- To keep the water 'sparkling'
- To make sure the water is safe and comfortable for users
- To care for the pool or spa and that the water isn't corrosive or scale forming



What do we test and why:

- Disinfectant: This will be normally chlorine or bromine. Good levels are required to sanitise the water, kill nasty 'bugs' and neutralise waste products
- pH: This shows you how acidic or alkaline the water is. Levels need controlling to ensure bather comfort, chlorine efficiency and to prevent damage to surfaces and fittings
- Total Alkalinity: Gives an overall indication to the quality of the water and acts as a 'buffer' to prevent swings in pH when adding chemicals to the water. Although important, you shouldn't be tempted to sacrifice your chlorine and pH levels chasing the alkalinity.
- Cyanuric Acid: Added as a stabiliser to hold on to the chlorine to stop it being 'burned off' by the sun. High levels are not desirable and can lead to the water looking green – not a good look

What levels should we be looking for?

This can depend on your pool or hot tub so you should be referring to the manufacturer's instructions for any special requirements. However, as a guideline for good sparkling water you should be looking for the following levels:

Free Chlorine:

Swimming Pool 1 - 3mg/l
Hot Tub 3 - 5mg/l

pH:

7.0 – 7.6

Cyanuric Acid:

Below 100mg/l

Bromine:

Swimming Pool
3 - 5mg/l

Total Alkalinity:

80 – 160mg/l

Please note mg/l = milligrams per litre this is sometimes referred to as ppm (parts per million)

How Do We Test?

As good testing is essential for safety, it should be carried out regularly and accurately. Test Strips can be used and offer quick readings but don't mistaken speed for accuracy. They can sometimes be difficult to read and results can vary. Tablet based systems are preferred as they are generally easier to read, more accurate and duplicate professional testing systems. The most important tests of free chlorine / bromine and pH can be read within seconds using tablet-based kits. Those extra seconds are worth it for peace of mind and safety of your family.

System available

- Minitester
- PoolTester
- Scuba II Electronic PoolTester

Scan for test kits &
tablet refill packs

