



Operator Practices for Pool Water Testing

1. Rinse test tubes before and after each test. Take your sample away from any skimmer, inlet or corner area of the pool. Reach down at least 12" below surface water. 98% of contaminants float.

If more than one operator is performing pool tests at different times of day, pick one area of the pool where all test samples will be taken from. This will help with the consistency of test results.

2. PH Testing

Follow directions on the test kit for PH test. Perform test and read the results immediately. If the FAC Chlorine level is at 4.0 ppm or higher, add 1-2 drops of a Thiosulfate test solution to PH water sample before adding the Phenol Red tablet or solution. Higher levels of Chlorine can cause fading of the Phenol Red color and give the operator false readings.

3. Free & Total Chlorine Test

DPD #1 Test tablet: Fill test tube to 5mm with pool water. Tear the foil on a DPD #1 test tablet and drop into test tube, avoid touching test tablet with fingers. Watch the DPD tablet settle to the bottom of the test tube. If it produces a red or dark pink color as it settles to the bottom of the test tube, this indicates over Chlorination. It may fade as it dissolves and could read with in normal range, but in fact be much higher actually than what you're reading.

To help the tablet dissolve, turn tube over slowly. Do not shake vigorously. The friction from vigorously shaking can cause the color of the tablet to fade. Match the test tube sample to the color bar as soon as it is totally dissolved. This is your FAC reading. For T AC drop a DPD #3 tablet directly on top of the first solution containing the DPD #1 tablet. Read results as soon as tablet dissolves.

4. Indicators of over-Chlorination

- Unusually low Ph results
- PH test that has a blue or purple tint to PH test sample
- A clear FAC test result (high chlorine levels may bleach out FAC test results)
- DPD test tablet results may also cycle in color when Chlorine levels are high
Example: a 3ppm reading may actually be a 100-200ppm reading
- A DPD tablet that turns red as it settles on the bottom of the test tube may be the only indicator of extreme high Chlorine residual before the sample starts to fade and then cycle in color



5. Testing Tips

- It's not uncommon to occasionally run into a bad test tablet or solution
- Replace old test tablets and testing solutions
- If you're unsure that the results are accurate, perform a 2nd or 3rd test
- Have "High Range Chlorine Test Strips" available to check for High Chlorine levels
Test strips give an approximate Chlorine range on Chlorine levels (10-200ppm)
- Test frequently when pool has heavier bathing loads
- Store testing supplies in cool to moderate temperature room
- Keep out of direct sun light