

Testing Pool and Spa Water with Test Strips

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

BEFORE YOU TEST THE WATERS

- Know how the strips work before you visit a pool or spa. The test involves comparing a color on the strip to a color on the bottle that holds the strips.
- It is important that the testing is done in a well-lit area, preferably in natural sunlight.
- The length of time that the strip is in the water, how the strip is held following dipping and how long to wait after dipping before comparing the strip may differ between manufacturers. **Read and follow the directions for use on each strip bottle.**
- Store test strips in a cool, dry area. Strips can be damaged if moisture gets into the bottle or the strips are stored in direct sunlight or in hot areas.

TESTING THE WATERS

When you arrive at the pool, test the water. The instructions on the test strip bottle 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 water 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.

