



Pool Water Testing & Disinfection



1. ORC 3701-31-04 B(4)(a)(i)

(i) The disinfectant residual shall be tested daily at the poolside deck prior to bathers entering the public swimming pool and every four hours when the public swimming pool is open for use. The disinfectant residual for a public swimming pool where an automatic chemical controller is installed shall be tested daily at the pool deck prior to bathers entering the water and every twelve hours the public swimming pool is open for use. A manual test for the disinfectant residual shall be performed at the spray nozzles on at least one special feature every six hours when the public swimming pool is open for use

2. WHY IS THIS AN ISSUE?

Disinfection is one of the most important aspects of operating a public swimming pool. When you fail to test the disinfection residual, you could potentially be compromising all individuals swimming at any given time, which can result in serious outbreaks or harm to the public. This allows bacteria to grow which could mean waterborne illness.

3. HOW TO CORRECT THE ISSUE

- Ensure you are using a DPD-FAS test kit
- Test disinfection residual (free chlorine) every 4 hours the pool is open. If operating with an auto chemical control unit, you must test twice a day.
- Be sure to test for free chlorine and combined chlorine
- Only use an approved disinfection through your circulation system (sodium hypochlorite, calcium hypochlorite or stabilized chlorine)

4. HOW TO PROPERLY TEST

There are two different methods that can be used to test for disinfection (powder or liquid). Both are acceptable when it comes to Ohio laws and regulations. A couple key points for when performing the test:

- always take a sample from the pool that is elbow deep
- ensure to read the result in clear daylight (this will allow from any discrepancies)
- hold the dropper bottle completely parallel to allow for a "full drop"

5. WATERBORNE ILLNESS

Failure to test your public swimming pool can result in the growth and spread of viruses and bacteria.

Some examples of waterborne illness' include:

- Cryptosporidium
- E. coli
- Giardia
- shigella

All of which can cause diarrhea, weight loss, nausea, vomiting, dehydration, and stomach cramps.

