

Swimming Pool Water Testing

Professional chemical and microbiological testing for private, public, school, hotel, estate, gym and municipal swimming pools.

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Chemistry and microbiology. Public and private swimming pools. Treatment and hygiene assessment. Clear H₂OGuru interpretation.

Protect Swimmers With Proper Pool Water Testing

Clear-looking swimming pool water is not always safe or properly balanced. A pool can appear clean while still having inadequate disinfection, poor pH control, excessive stabiliser, bacterial contamination, high turbidity or mineral conditions that damage surfaces and equipment.

The H₂OGuru Swimming Pool Water Testing package evaluates the most important chemical, physical and microbiological indicators affecting swimmer safety, water clarity, disinfection performance and pool maintenance.

The package is suitable for private homes, schools, hotels, lodges, estates, gyms, public facilities and municipal swimming pools. It can be used for routine monitoring, complaint investigations, reopening after closure, treatment troubleshooting or verification after corrective action.

H₂OGuru assists with correct sampling, laboratory testing, interpretation and practical next-step guidance.

Package at a Glance

Primary Purpose

Assess swimmer safety, disinfection and water balance

Suitable Pools

Private, public, school, hotel, estate and municipal

Test Types

Chemical, physical and microbiological

Typical Use

Routine monitoring, troubleshooting and verification

Laboratory

SANAS-accredited testing partner

Reporting

Laboratory results with H2OGuru interpretation

Who Should Use This Package?

Homeowners

For unexplained cloudiness, staining, algae, odour, irritation or recurring treatment problems.

Schools and Universities

For learner safety, routine hygiene monitoring and verification before reopening.

Hotels and Lodges

For guest safety, water clarity, treatment control and complaint prevention.

Estates and Body Corporates

For shared pools with high bather loads and communal maintenance responsibilities.

Gyms and Sports Facilities

For heavily used swimming pools, training pools, spas and aquatic facilities.

Municipalities and Public Facilities

For public-pool hygiene, treatment verification and operational monitoring.

What Does the Package Test?

Parameter	What It Indicates	Why It Matters
Free Chlorine	Immediately available disinfectant	Shows whether sufficient active chlorine is present to control microorganisms.
Total Chlorine	Free and combined chlorine	Helps assess chloramine formation and overall chlorine condition.
Combined Chlorine	Chloramines and spent chlorine compounds	High levels may contribute to odour, irritation and reduced disinfection quality.

pH	Acidity or alkalinity of the pool water	Controls chlorine efficiency, swimmer comfort, corrosion and scale formation.
Total Alkalinity	Buffering capacity	Helps stabilise pH and reduce sudden chemical swings.
Calcium Hardness	Calcium mineral content	Low levels may promote aggressive water, while high levels can cause scale and cloudiness.
Cyanuric Acid	Chlorine stabiliser concentration	Useful in outdoor pools, but excessive levels can reduce chlorine effectiveness.
Turbidity	Water clarity and suspended material	Cloudy water can hide hazards and may indicate poor filtration or treatment.
E. coli	Faecal contamination	Indicates an immediate hygiene concern and possible
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	Opportunistic bacterial contamination	Relevant to swimming pools, spas, biofilm, skin and ear complaints.
Heterotrophic Plate Count	General bacterial loading	Provides an operational indication of pool hygiene and treatment control.

The exact parameter list can be adjusted according to the pool type, treatment method, complaint and level of risk.

Public and Private Pool Applications

Private Residential Pools

For water-balance problems, recurring algae, odour, staining, irritation and treatment troubleshooting.

Public Swimming Pools

For higher bather loads, routine monitoring, hygiene verification and operational control.

School Pools

For learner safety, reopening checks, sports programmes and seasonal monitoring.

Hotel and Lodge Pools

For guest safety, appearance, complaint prevention and treatment verification.

Estate and Communal Pools

For shared-use facilities where water quality must remain stable under changing bather loads.

Indoor and Heated Pools

For chloramine, ventilation-related complaints, high usage and warm-water microbial risks.

Common Problems Identified

Low Disinfectant Residual

Insufficient free chlorine can allow bacteria and algae to grow.

High Combined Chlorine

May cause strong chlorine odour, eye irritation and poor swimmer comfort.

Poor pH Control

Can reduce chlorine effectiveness and increase corrosion, scaling or irritation.

Excess Cyanuric Acid

Can make chlorine less effective and complicate normal treatment control.

Bacterial Contamination

E. coli, Pseudomonas or elevated plate counts may indicate inadequate disinfection or hygiene.

Cloudiness and Turbidity

May result from poor filtration, suspended material, chemical imbalance or heavy bather load.

Recommended Sampling Locations

Main Pool Body

Collect away from return jets, walls and dosing points at a representative depth.

Shallow End

Useful where younger swimmers, higher temperatures or heavy bather loads may affect quality.

Deep End

Helps assess circulation and treatment across the pool.

Return Line or Balance Tank

Useful for investigating circulation, treatment and system performance.

Spa or Heated Section

Should be sampled separately because warm water and aerosols create different risks.

Complaint Area

Collect near the location associated with odour, cloudiness, irritation or suspected contamination.

Microbiological samples should be collected in sterile containers using the correct technique. Samples taken immediately next to a chlorine dosing point may not represent the condition of the full pool.

When Should Pool Water Be Tested?

Before Reopening

After winter shutdown, refurbishment, prolonged closure or major maintenance.

During Heavy Use

When bather loads increase during holidays, school terms, events or summer periods.

After Contamination

Following faecal incidents, flooding, stormwater ingress or other hygiene events.

After Treatment Changes

When changing disinfectants, stabiliser levels, dosing equipment or filtration systems.

When Complaints Occur

For eye irritation, skin complaints, odour, cloudiness, algae or recurrent bacterial problems.

Routine Monitoring

As part of a scheduled pool maintenance and hygiene programme.

Pool Chemistry and Swimmer Safety

Condition	Possible Effect	Operational Concern
Low Free Chlorine	Reduced microbial control	Higher risk of bacterial growth, algae and unsafe water.
High Combined Chlorine	Odour and irritation	May indicate high organic loading or poor oxidation.

Low pH	Corrosion and irritation	Can damage surfaces, fittings and equipment.
High pH	Reduced chlorine performance	May promote cloudiness, scale and poor disinfection.
Low Alkalinity	Unstable pH	Can cause rapid chemical fluctuations.
High Calcium Hardness	Scale and cloudiness	Can damage heaters, surfaces and circulation equipment.
Excess Cyanuric Acid	Reduced chlorine activity	May require dilution or partial water replacement.

The H₂OGuru Sample-to-Solution Process

1

Review the pool and complaint

2

Select chemical and microbiological parameters

3

Collect representative samples

4

Complete laboratory testing

5

Interpret safety and treatment performance

6

Recommend corrective action and retesting

Pool testing works best when laboratory results are considered together with on-site readings, dosing records, bather load, circulation, filtration condition and recent treatment actions.

What You Receive

Laboratory Results

Formal chemical, physical and microbiological results for the sampled pool.

Clear Suitability Summary

A practical assessment of swimmer safety, hygiene and water balance.

H₂OGuru Interpretation

Guidance on the main problems, likely causes and recommended corrective actions.

Why Choose H₂OGuru?

H ₂ OGuru Service	Benefit to the Client
Chemistry and microbiology in one package	Assesses both water balance and swimmer hygiene.
Public and private pool applications	Supports homes, schools, hotels, estates, gyms and municipalities.
Accredited laboratory testing	Provides reliable analytical data within the laboratory's accredited scope.
Practical interpretation	Explains what the results mean for treatment, safety and maintenance.
Corrective-action support	Helps guide dosing, filtration, dilution, cleaning and verification testing.

Need a Different Analysis?

Explore the other H₂OGuru testing packages for drinking water, Legionella, cooling systems, wastewater and specialised applications.

SANS 241 Chemistry and Microbiology

A complete drinking water assessment covering chemical and microbiological quality.

SANS 241 Microbiology Only

For E. coli, coliforms and routine microbiological monitoring.

Legionella Water Testing

For hot-water systems, showers, storage tanks and cooling towers.

Cooling Tower Water Testing

For Legionella risk, scale, corrosion, biofilm and treatment control.

Wastewater and Effluent

For treatment performance, discharge assessment and reuse investigations.

Process Water Testing

For production, cooling, boiler, rinse and manufacturing applications.

Water Source Identification

Compare unknown water with municipal, borehole, sewer or groundwater sources.

Custom Water Testing

Tailored parameter selection for specialised projects and investigations.

Keep Pool Water Clear, Balanced and Safe for Swimmers

Arrange professional chemical and microbiological pool testing for homes, schools, hotels, estates, gyms, public facilities and municipal swimming pools.

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