

79 Kioreroa Road
Private Bag 9023, Whangārei 0148
09 4304 220
wdclaboratory@wdc.govt.nz

TECHNICAL NOTE 6 | SWIMMING POOLS

Whangarei District Laboratory is IANZ Accredited and provides a wide range of testing services, please contact us to discuss and quote on your requirements.

REPORT INTERPRETATION

When you request analyses from our Laboratory, you are sent a written report comparing your pool water quality with microbiological criteria for public pools specified in NZ Standard 5826:2010. To assist you with the interpretation of this report, we will explain some of the terms used.

Note - The result reported applies only to the pool water quality at the time of sampling. Water Quality will vary from day to day and is dependent on factors such as bather loading, efficiency of disinfection, sanitary conditions and the total number of bathers per day. Regular monitoring of your water quality is recommended.

NZS 5826:2010

The New Zealand Standard for Operation and Monitoring of Public Swimming and Spa Pools. These standards list the criteria applicable to pool waters. The microbiological monitoring is in accordance with Clause 1.4.4 and Table 4 which outlines which microbiological tests are required and the allowable limits for each test parameter.

Results Section of Report

YOUR REFERENCE/OUR REFERENCE

What you have called your sample (Swimming Pool) and the number we have assigned to your sample.

‘TEST METHOD INFORMATION’ SECTION

‘Standard Methods for the Analysis of Water and Wastewater’ is the text containing the methods to be used for detecting the bacteria. The method is as referred to in ‘Method’ column. For example, APHA Section 9223 B (Colilert).

‘END OF REPORT’

The end of the report contains the signature of Key Technical Personnel, and the IANZ accreditation logo – an assurance of our laboratory’s technical competence.

What do my results mean?

E COLI, STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS, PSEUDOMONAS AERUGINOSA

These are bacteria tested for as required in the standard. Staphylococcus aureus and Pseudomonas aeruginosa originate from the shedding of normal skin flora and account for a large percentage of swimming pool associated illnesses. For outside pools E coli and Pseudomonas species are indicators of contamination from human and animal sources, stormwater runoff. E coli is indicative of faecal contamination and indicate the possible presence of pathogenic (disease causing) bacteria. Heterotrophic Plate Count (sometimes referred to as Standard Plate Count) is related to general bather hygiene and gives an indication of disinfection (chlorine) efficiency. The Plate Count is only performed on heated and spa pools.

Table 1 Result section example, compared with Standard levels

Your reference	Some School			
Secondary reference	SoSch			
Notes				
Our reference	11100462			
Sample collection	31-10-11 1030			
PARAMETER	UNIT	RESULT	NZ STANDARD POOL WATER QUALITY NZ5826:2010 MAV	COMPLIES WITH STANDARD
Escherichia Coli (51W)	MPN/100mL	<1	<1	yes
Pseudomonas A (presumptive)	cfu/100mL	<1	<10	yes
Staphylococcus A (presumptive)	cfu/100mL	<2	<100	yes
Heterotrophic Plate Count 350C	cfu/mL	<1	<200	yes

Note: '<' is a symbol meaning less than; '<1' in above table means 'less than one' or 'not detected'