



Pool Note 1

The Department of Health is reminding people of the need for increased vigilance to prevent water-borne diseases in home pools and spas during hot weather.

Water-borne amoebae and bacteria can pose a serious health risk, so it is vital that pool and spa owners follow appropriate safety procedures. Unlike public and commercial pools which have automatic chemical controllers and dosing units and qualified technical operators to correct chemical levels, the home pool and spa owner does not have these skills. Owners should be vigilant and take special care to maintain high water quality during periods of very hot weather.

Home owners should ensure that:

- Check chemical levels before using the pool or spa.
- All swimming pools and spas need to be sampled twice per day for free chlorine and pH at 7.2 – 7.8.
- Make sure that the free chlorine level should be an absolute minimum 1ppm for unstabilised and 2ppm for stabilized pools before the pool is used and double this value for Bromine.
- Be sure stabilizer is never more than 50ppm.
- Heated pools and spas need a minimum free chlorine level of 2ppm unstabilised and 3ppm stabilized and double this value for Bromine.
- Pool filters should run continuously 24/7 to ensure water is kept free of microbes

Don't put the hose directly into pool. Add water through the skimmer box when the pump is operating so that all water is filtered before entering the pool.

- Keep the pool and surroundings free of sand and leaves.
- Only use spas and pools with a pump and filter using salt, chlorine or bromine at the recommended levels.
- Spa pools should be emptied weekly, cleaned & sanitized and refilled and disinfected to the minimum operating levels for pH and chlorine or bromine before use.
- Never put your head under the water surface in a spa.

For further information look at the Department's website at:

http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/cproot/1324/2/Keeping_your_swimming_pool_and_spas_healthy.pdf

or contact your local council environmental health officer.

Applied Environmental Health
Environmental Health Hazards Unit
(Department of Health)
swimmingpools@health.wa.gov.au

