

Water Recreation Program 1101 West College Avenue Spokane, WA 99201-2095 509.324.1560 ext. 4

www.srhd.org

Hints for Testing Pool Water...

- □ Follow your kit's directions.
- Begin each season with fresh test chemicals.
- □ Rinse test vials thoroughly before taking a water sample.
- Take your water sample as deep as you can reach and far away from a disinfection inlet or source.
- Avoid touching test tablets with your fingers.
- □ Use a lid (not your thumb) when inverting tube.
- Use a white background and adequate light source when reading results.
- Store your kit in a cool, dry location.
 Do not keep your test kit close to any pool chemicals.

Potential Problems

Free Chlorine too low:

- risk of transmitting infections & diseases
- risk of algae growth

Free Chlorine too high:

- uneconomical use of disinfectant
- bleaching of hair and swimsuits

Combined Chlorine too high:

- irritates bathers' eyes and mucous membranes
- causes strong "chlorine" odor

pH too low:

- pits concrete, wrinkles vinyl liners, corrodes equipment
- metal stains may appear
- promotes chlorine loss
- irritates bathers' skin and eyes

pH too high:

- crusty deposits may form on contact surfaces
- may contribute to cloudy water
- poor chlorine disinfection
- irritates bathers' skin and eyes

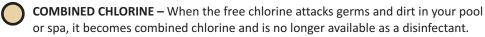


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Chlorine: Free, Combined, Total... What Does It Mean?

FREE CHLORINE – When chlorine is first added to your pool or spa, it is available as free chlorine which acts as a disinfectant.



TOTAL CHLORINE – Free chlorine plus combined chlorine.

- **1. Test for free chlorine.** You are measuring the amount of chlorine that is available to act as a disinfectant.
- 2. Test for total chlorine. You are measuring free chlorine plus combined chlorine.
- **3. Calculate combined chlorine.** Subtract free chlorine from total chlorine.

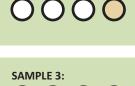
Total – Free = Combined

Chlorine level is good.

If the total chlorine is equal to or slightly higher than the free chlorine (SAMPLE 1 AND 2), most of the chlorine in your pool is available to disinfect the water.

Time to drain or shock.

If the combined chlorine is greater than half of the free chlorine (SAMPLE 3), then there is not enough chlorine available to disinfect the water, and it is time to drain or shock the pool.



SAMPLE 1:

SAMPLE 2: