



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH POOL NEWSLETTER



May 2023

Oh buoy, the warm weather has returned!

Pool season is back, and people are eager to go swimming again. But rushing to reopen your pool can lead to mistakes. Remember, water quality and pool safety are more important than how fast you can open.

Common Pool Operating Mistakes:

Puck-er Up:

Do not place chlorine pucks in skimmer baskets or floating dispensers. Pucks must be placed inside of chemical feeders, where the flow rate can be controlled (see OAR 333 [Division 60-0150](#) & [Division 62-0125](#)). Leaving pucks loose in the pool is a safety hazard. It can also cause acidic pockets of water to form while the pump is turned off, which can damage the pool equipment.



What Hose Around...Comes Around:

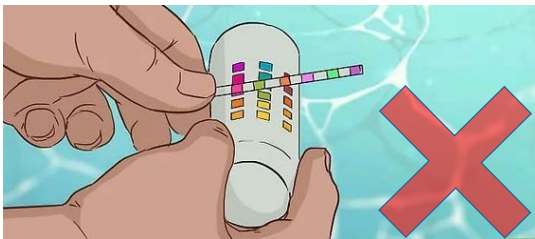


Do not submerge water hoses in the pool water. This will create a direct connection between the pool water and the fresh water supply (see OAR 333-060-0190(2))

When refilling the pool be sure to keep the hose above the deck level.



It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Litmus:



Test strips may not be used to measure chlorine levels in public pools.

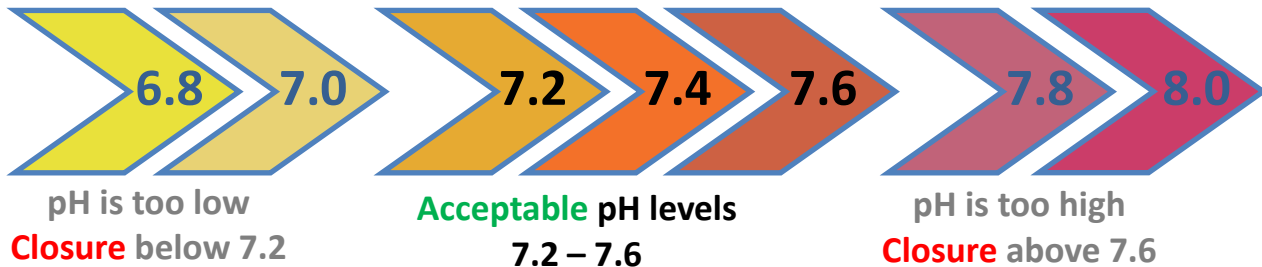
An approved test kit, with non-expired reagents, is needed to check water quality levels. DPD must be the reagent used to measure chlorine or bromine (see OAR 333-060-0200(2)(c)).



Out of Bounds, Shut it Down

Below are the most important chemical levels to maintain for your pool/spa. If these are out of range, the pool/spa must be closed until the issue(s) can be corrected.

pH:



Chlorine Residual:



- **Free Chlorine:**
 - Pools
 - **Acceptable Range** = 0.8 – 5 ppm
 - **Closure Levels** = below 0.8 ppm or above 5 ppm
 - Spas
 - **Acceptable Range** = 1.5 – 5 ppm
 - **Closure Levels** = below 1.5 ppm or above 5 ppm
- **Combined Chlorine (aka “dirty chlorine”):**
 - **Acceptable Range** = 0 – 0.5 ppm
 - **Closure Levels** = 0.5 ppm or higher

Cyanuric Acid:

If your pool/spa uses STABILIZED chlorine, then cyanuric acid will be in the water. Cyanuric acid does help protect chlorine from breaking down in the sun. However, too much cyanuric acid can cause the free chlorine levels to be useless.

- **Acceptable Range** = 0 – 30 ppm
- **Closure Levels** = Above 150 ppm

