



# Pool Note 1

## Using Swimming Pools in Hot Weather

The Department of Health reminds 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. Home pool and spa owners may not have access to automatic chemical controllers, dosing units and qualified technical operators to correct chemical levels that are available to public and commercial pools. Therefore, owners should take special care to maintain high water quality during periods of very hot weather.

Home pool and spa owners should ensure that:

- They check chemical levels before using the pool or spa.
- They sample twice per day for free chlorine and pH at 7.2 – 7.8.
- Pool filters are run continuously when the pool is in operation to ensure water is kept free of microbes.
- The level of free chlorine is a minimum of 1ppm for unstabilised and 2ppm for stabilised pools before the pool is used and double these values for Bromine.
- Stabiliser is never more than 50ppm.
- Heated pools and spas have a minimum free chlorine level of 2ppm unstabilised and 3ppm stabilised, and double these values for Bromine.
- Hoses are not put directly into pool: instead, add water through the skimmer box when the pump is operating so that all water is filtered before entering the pool.
- The pool and surroundings are kept free of sand and leaves.
- Only spas and pools with a pump and filter using salt, chlorine or bromine at the recommended levels are used.
- Spa pools are emptied, cleaned, sanitised, refilled and disinfected to the minimum operating levels for pH and chlorine or bromine before use.
- People using spas never put their head under the water surface.

Further information is available on the Department's website [here](#), or contact your local council environmental health officer.

