



**Remember The Three Rs: Read – Record – React**

***Feeling strongly about proper training and procedures when it comes to making sure swimming pool water is safe***

Isn't Winter great? Remember the days of snowball fights, puddle skidding, sledging and making ice slides in the playground? ..... Oh, wait a minute – that was before Health and Safety fever took over and these simplest childhood pleasures were banned from school.

Yet we're happy to pack off our children to the local pool every week where far greater dangers may lie in wait than a bit of snow and ice in the playground. We rely, in the old fashioned way, on human nature. We implicitly trust in the maintenance of the pool and cleanliness of the water. Sure, Health and Safety looms here too and - without a doubt - should a problem occur we'd all hear about it. Indeed, the facility would make the tabloid headlines in minutes. But that's locking the proverbial stable door long after the horse has bolted.

Fortunately, that should be a very rare occurrence since everyone connected with the leisure industry knows how important water hygiene and balance is. And, when we think about it, we know that balanced water can only be achieved with good pool water testing.

Yes, we all know this goes without saying but is the level of testing being carried out and the training given adequate to meet today's demands?

**In other words, have the personnel carrying out your testing been given the correct level of training or have they been thrown in at the deep end and been told to 'get on with it'?**

No, this is not a rant on the cleanliness of public pools! Not at all. But, being Lovibond® Tintometer®, we feel it is our duty to remind everyone just how precise the procedure of water testing needs to be. After all, new employees join all the time.

Do they realize, for example, that the measurements taken are at very low levels and normally measured in parts per million – the equivalent of trying to measure approximately an inch on the height of Mount Everest?

So we thought we'd put together some guidelines for you – to help you help them make testing as accurate as possible:

Taking the sample:

*Always* Take from a depth of 300mm from the pool

*Always* Try to take from the same place each time and make sure sufficient sample is collected

*Always* Take samples at times stated in your operating procedures

*Always* Use a clean non-glass bottle and rinse out several times before taking the Sample

Carrying out the test:

- Always* Carry out the tests immediately after taking the sample
- Always* Make sure the tests are carried out in a suitable location
- Always* Wash and dry hands before commencing testing
- Always* Make sure the tubes, tablets etc are correct for the equipment being used
- Always* Use good quality tablets
- Always* Use a clean dry sample bottle
- Always* Ensure all equipment is clean and dry
- Always* Rinse tubes three to four times with sample water before carrying out the test
- Always* Carry out tests in a suitable location away from the pool side
- Always* Check the tablet prior to testing and reject any suspect tablets
- Never*** Handle the tablet
- Always* Make sure there is adequate lighting
- Always* Always test Chlorine (or Bromine) and pH before using the pool
- Always* Record results

After testing:

- Always* Empty cells and clean and dry all equipment immediately
- Always* Return tablets to correct boxes and equipment to boxes for safe storage
- Always* Discard any scratched cells and/or crushing rods
- Always* Empty, wash and dry the sample bottle
- Always* Check readings and carry out any necessary corrective actions

And remember - taking the test is only part of the operator's duties. Reverting to childhood memories again: Remember the three R's: **READ – RECORD – REACT.**

These are only guidelines but they will help operators eliminate errors in measurement and achieve good results. If you'd like a copy to hang in your facilities room, please contact us at [sales@tintometer.com](mailto:sales@tintometer.com). We'd be happy to send one over.

However they are only guidelines and those carrying out the testing should ideally also be sufficiently trained on what they are testing for and why. Unsurprisingly, Lovibond Tintometer runs just such a course focussing on pool water testing. For further details and dates of upcoming courses, please contact us on 01980 664800 or [sales@tintometer.com](mailto:sales@tintometer.com).

Don't let the Health and Safety police have cause to catch your facility out and make you the tabloid headlines. Leave them alone to destroy the little pleasures of childhood.