

Measuring pH in Pool Care

pH has an important impact on sanitizer effectiveness, pool and spa surfaces, pool equipment and the swimmer. There are common problems associated with pH levels that are too high or too low. The following table details such problems:

High pH Readings	Low pH Readings
Poor sanitizer efficiency	Poor sanitizer efficiency
Cloudy water	Skin and eye irritation
Shorter filter runs	Corroded metals and equipment
Scale formation	Stained plaster
Skin and eye irritation	

The ideal pH range for pool water is about 7.4 to 7.6 pH with pH values of 7.2 to 7.8 being acceptable. Spas should be maintained within a pH range of 7.2 to 7.8.

Balanced water is a term used to describe the ideal condition of a pool. The water is balanced if it has just the right amount of pH, pH buffers, calcium and magnesium hardness, and dissolved solids.

In order to determine the pH and disinfectant concentration in your pool water, tests should be conducted regularly with the [pHScanWP1/2](#). Public pools should test their water every day before the pool is opened, then at least once during the morning, afternoon and evening sessions. Testing intervals should be no longer than four hours when the pool is open.

Consult pool and spa supply stores or pool maintenance specialists for help in raising or lowering pH levels in the pool water. Soda ash and sodium bicarbonate are helpful in increasing pH. Liquid muriatic acid works best to lower pH effectively.

For weekly tests the [pHScanWP1/2](#) is recommended for your pool maintenance needs. The compact waterproof tester requires minimum maintenance and it offers high accuracy and fast response times. It is rugged and has easy to use features in both personal and public pools.