FACT SHEET

Environmental Health

POOL AND SPA SAMPLING

All swimming pools and spas that are open for public access must be monitored to protect health and safety. It is a requirement of the Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007 that samples must be taken for microbiological analysis on at least a monthly basis.

When sampling your own pool and spa water you need to consider the following important information:

ASEPTIC TECHNIQUE

It is important to ensure the sample is not contaminated in any way.

To ensure this:

- It is important that you do not touch the neck or top of the sample bottle. Ensure it does not come into contact with anything else around you such as your clothing, sampling pole, pool edge or ground; and
- When you remove the lid of the sample bottle ensure you do not touch the inside of the lid and that it does not come into contact with anything else around you.

COLLECTION OF SAMPLES

Samples must be collected in sterile bottles containing sodium thiosulphate (your laboratory will provide you with these).

Samples must be collected in the pool/spa at 300mm to 400mm below the water surface and at the furthest point from water inlets.

Testing of chemical parameters to accompany microbiological results, such as free residual chlorine, and temperature, should be conducted after the sample has been taken for microbiological analysis.

TRANSPORTATION OF SAMPLES

The samples need to be kept refrigerated while they are transported to the laboratory for analysis. Use an eski/insulated container with sufficient ice/ice-blocks. Protect the sample from being directly in contact with the ice, as it may freeze. This may be achieved by using a barrier such as bubble wrap or cloth.

Take to the laboratory as soon as possible, within 6 hours of taking the sample.

LABORATORY

The laboratory undertaking the analysis must be NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) certified. To check if a laboratory is accredited check the NATA website: www.nata.asn.au

RESULTS

The sample must not exceed the following standards:

TYPE OF ORGANISM	MAXIMUM COUNT STANDARD
• Heterotrophic Colony Count	100 Colony forming units (CFU per 100ml)
• Thermotolerant coliforms	<1 per 100ml
• Pseudomonas aeruginosa	<1 per 100ml