



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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LABORATORY TEST FACT SHEET

WATER TESTING OF SPA AND SWIMMING POOL WATER

ORDER CODES: 8045, 8050

TEST DESCRIPTIONS

Pseudomonas MPN (Order code: 8050)

Method: Defined substrate hydrolysis—Chromogenic

Pseudalert

The test is based on a bacterial enzyme detection technology that signals the presence of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* through the hydrolysis of a substrate present in the Pseudalert reagent. Actively growing strains of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* have an enzyme that cleaves the substrate to produce a blue fluorescence under UV light. Pseudalert detects *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* at 1 colony forming unit (CFU) in either 100 mL or 250 mL samples within 24 hours for non-carbonated water samples and within 26 hours for carbonated samples.

Reference range: Recommended limits vary by water source.

Turnaround time: 1 day

Heterotrophic Plate Count (Order code: 8045)

Method: Colony count by pour plate

Standard Methods 9215 B

The heterotrophic plate count (HPC) procedure estimates the number of live heterotrophic bacteria in a water sample. The number of colony-forming units (CFUs) is the final colony count that may arise from pairs, chains, clusters, or single bacteria as well as interaction among developing colonies. The test does not differentiate between type of bacteria.

Reference range: There are no defined limits for this test.

Turnaround time: 2 days