

What do the boxes mean?



Water quality in the sample met the Directive's most stringent guideline standards:

- Total coliforms - no more than 500 per 100 ml of water
- Faecal coliforms - no more than 100 per 100 ml of water
- Faecal streptococci - no more than 100 per 100 ml of water



Water quality in the sample met the Directive's main mandatory standards:

- Total coliforms - no more than 10,000 per 100 ml of water
- Faecal coliforms - no more than 2,000 per 100 ml of water



Water quality in the sample failed to meet the Directive's main mandatory standards.

What is the Bathing Water Directive?

The aim of the Directive is to protect public health and the environment from faecal pollution at bathing waters. The Directive sets limits for a number of substances, which are monitored by the Environment Agency in England and Wales. All countries in the European Union have to ensure that their popular beaches meet these standards.

What are Coliforms?

The Coliform group of bacteria are the most important of the Directive standards tested for at bathing waters. In general these can be taken as an indication of the presence of sewage contamination. Faecal streptococci, taken into account for assessing the guideline standard, are also indicators of sewage contamination.

How is water quality assessed over a bathing season?

In accordance with the Bathing Water Directive:

Guideline: Over a bathing season 80% of samples must be equal to or better than total and faecal coliform guideline standards and 90% of samples equal to or better than the faecal streptococci standard.

Mandatory: Over a bathing season 95% of samples taken must be equal to or better than the total and faecal coliform mandatory standards.

What was water quality like in previous years?

Year Beach	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Where can I find more information?

Further details may be obtained by contacting your Local Authority at:

or

The Regional Office of the Environment Agency at:

Information can also be found on the Environment Agency website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk or on the Defra website at www.defra.gov.uk.