

TANK TOP TOMMY'S POOL PARTY ACTIVITY

Join Inspector Hector, the soft-boiled health inspector, and his cross-eyed Siamese cat Ajax, who has a tongue rougher than cheap bathroom cleanser, in unraveling the mystery of why everyone in Tank Top Tommy's pool has red eyes.

Tank Top Tommy's Pool

Inspector Hector was excited! He glanced again at the flashy invitation to a pool party from his neighbor - Tank Top Tommy. Inspecting was hard work and he was ready for a little relaxation. He got out his bag and packed his towel...and his giant smiley-face float...and his earplugs. This would be an excellent chance to show off his new red, white and blue striped bathing suit! Ajax rolled his eyes at the sight of the Inspector's pale body. He reached out a paw and tipped a family-sized bottle of extra strength sun screen into the bag just as the Inspector zipped it closed. Then Ajax flipped down his cool wraparound sunglasses and they were ready to go!

As they parked the scooter in a patch of shade, they could hear splashing and laughter from the other side of the wall around the community pool that Tank Top Tommy had rented for his annual party. It sounded like everyone was having a great time. They couldn't wait to join the fun! As they walked toward the entrance to the pool, a stinging, chlorine odor wafted toward them and they could now hear that some of the loud voices had a cranky tone. Maybe the guests weren't having as much fun as the Inspector and Ajax first thought! When they came through the gate, they could see that everyone in the pool had red, itchy eyes. Tommy summed up the situation as he walked over to meet them "Dude, they forgot to add more chlorine to disinfect the pool...*sigh*."

Is Tank Top Tommy right? Did his friends get itchy eyes because someone forgot to put more chlorine in the pool? Does chlorine really get used up when it disinfects pool water? Should more chlorine be added after a lot of people use a pool?



This activity should be done with adult supervision.

You'll need household items and a simple way to test for free chlorine. Free chlorine tests are commonly done for swimming pools and spas.

Materials Needed:

Test strips or a test kit that tests for Free Chlorine, 0 - 10 ppm range

1/8 Teaspoon measuring spoon

Shallow pan, big enough for feet

Gallon container [an empty milk jug works fine]

Tap water

Household bleach

Towels

Suggested test strip: LaMotte Free Chlorine Test Strips, 0 - 10 ppm [Code 2964-G]

Notes

- Be careful when using undiluted bleach! The dilute bleach solution that you will make is the same strength as swimming pool water and it should not harm carpets or fabrics. Do this activity on an uncarpeted floor or outside. Be careful of slipping!
- Follow instructions and safety precautions for all materials. Consult the manufacturer's web site for Safety Data Sheets.
- For a pool party vibe, use a colorful beach towel!

Toe Jam Experiment

Procedure

<p>1. Put the shallow pan on the floor. Put a towel under it to catch any drips.</p>	<p>2. Fill a gallon container with tap water. Use a 1/8 teaspoon measuring spoon to add 1/8 teaspoon of household bleach to the tap water.</p>	<p>3. Pour the diluted bleach solution into the pan. Continue making gallon containers of dilute bleach solution until the pan is fairly full but still has enough room for someone to step into it without it overflowing. This is the pool.</p>
<p>4. Use a test strip or test kit to determine the free chlorine level in the pool.</p>	<p>5. Take off your socks and shoes. Form a line at the edge of the pool, and one person at a time, step carefully into the pool on one side and step out the other side.</p>	<p>6. Dry your feet and put your shoes and socks back on.</p>
<p>7. Use a test strip or the test kit to determine the free chlorine level in the pool after all of the feet have walked through it.</p>		



Questions

1. How much free chlorine did the fresh pool have in it?
2. How many feet walked through the pool?
3. How much free chlorine did the pool have in it after all of the feet were in it?
4. What can be added to swimming pools to kill bacteria?
5. Why is it necessary to test free chlorine levels in swimming pools?



Cool Pool

Inspector Hector and Ajax got everyone out of the pool. Then they calculated how much chlorine had to be added keep everyone from getting redder, itchier eyes. They helped the lifeguards carefully add the chlorine. There was just enough time for some burgers and a few rousing games of volleyball while the chlorine and pool water mixed. They tested the pool water again and...Inspector Hector signed the report with a flourish and snapped the lid of his test kit shut! The chlorine in the pool was perfect and it was safe for everyone to swim again. As everyone cheerfully lined up for their turn in the shower before they jumped back into the pool, he reminded the slightly sunburned crowd that even when the chlorine levels in a swimming pool are perfect, the water is NEVER clean enough to put in your mouth or drink!

Last one in is a rotten egg!

Chlorine is a swimming pool treatment chemical that kills germs that can cause nasty health problems like diarrhea, ear infections and athlete's foot. When "free" chlorine disinfects the water and combines with germs "combined" chlorine is formed which has no disinfecting power and smells bad and irritates eyes.