

PORIRUA

RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY
MONITORING RESULTS FOR THE
2017/18 SUMMER

IS IT SAFE TO SWIM IN PORIRUA?

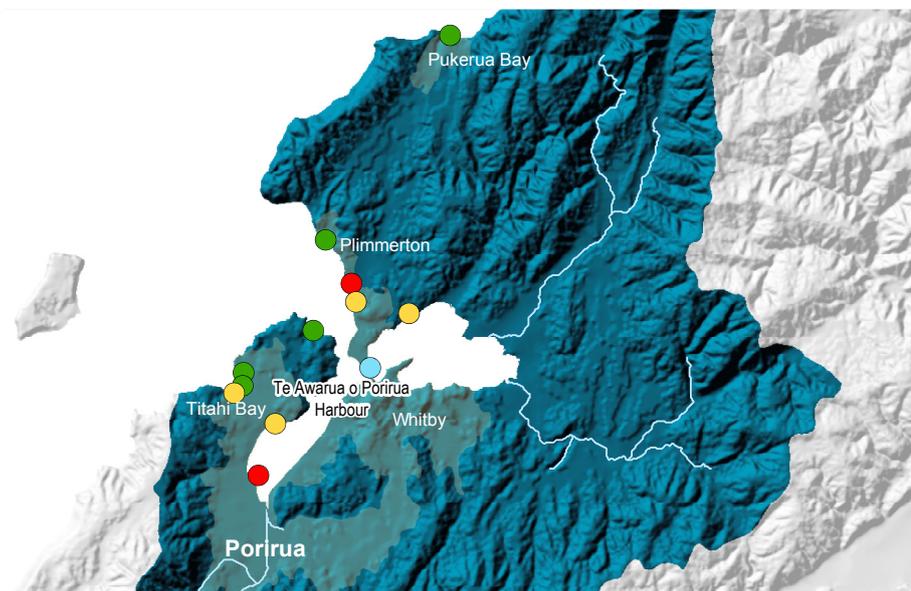


Caution! Don't swim after rain

Recreational water quality in Porirua is variable and depends on the site. Most sites have an overall grade of B or C, but two sites are graded D.

The worst sites in this area are at Plimmerton and in the Onepoto arm of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour. Previous investigations have identified human sewage as a source of contamination in these areas, however inspections of the sewer network by Wellington Water have not fully identified the specific sources.

Plimmerton Beach and the areas of the harbour near the Waka Ama and Rowing clubs remain susceptible to faecal contamination and can experience high bacterial levels even in dry weather conditions. The unpredictability of water quality at these sites means caution should be taken at all times.



Key

- A** – Very low risk of illness 8% (1 site)
- B** – Low risk of illness 42% (5 sites)
- C** – Caution advised 33% (4 sites)
- D** – Sometimes* unsuitable for swimming 17% (2 sites)

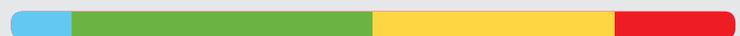
*Sites that are graded D tend to be significantly affected by rainfall and should be avoided for at least 48hrs after it has rained. However water quality at these sites may be safe for swimming for much of the rest of the time.

Greater Wellington Regional Council, along with your local city council, monitors 12 coastal sites in the Porirua area. The results from this monitoring are compared to national guidelines and used to calculate an overall Microbial Assessment Category (MAC) grade for each site. In Porirua one site is graded A, five sites are graded B, four sites are graded C and two sites are graded D.

In Porirua:

1 site is
graded **A**

4 sites are
graded **C**



5 sites are
graded **B**

2 sites are
graded **D**



Wait two days after rain before you swim again...

Water quality in our rivers and at our beaches is generally pretty good over the summer, except in poor weather conditions. Heavy rain flushes contaminants from urban and rural land into water and we advise people not to swim for at least two days after heavy rain – even if a site generally has good water quality.

In Porirua 13 of the 184 routine samples (seven percent) taken did not meet the guideline, and just over half of these were associated with rainfall.

Not sure if it's good or not?
Do a simple self-check by wading into the water up to your shins.

Can you see your toes? If so, the water's probably fine!

2017/18 Results

Site Name	Number of samples exceeding the guideline	Number of exceedances associated with rainfall	Overall grade*
Pukerua Bay	0	NA	B
Karehana Bay at Cluny Road	1	1	B
Onehunga Bay**	NA	NA	B
Plimmerton Beach at Bath Street	2	2	D↓
South Beach at Plimmerton	5	2	C
Pauatahanui Inlet at water ski club	0	NA	C
Pauatahanui Inlet at Paremata Bridge	0	NA	A
Porirua Harbour at Wi Neera Drive Boat Ramp***	4	1	D
Porirua Harbour at rowing club	1	1	C
Titahi Bay at Bay Drive	0	NA	B↑
Titahi Bay at Toms Road	0	NA	B
Titahi Bay at South Beach Access Road	0	NA	C

* An arrow beside the grade denotes whether there has been an improvement or decline since the previous season, ie, ↑ means the grade has improved and ↓ means the grade has declined. Note that the overall grade is based on three years of data and grades for freshwater sites are 'dry weather' grades.

** Not sampled in 2017/18.

*** Interim grade based on 2 years data.

For more information

For more information on our Recreational Water Quality Programme check out www.gw.govt.nz/is-it-safe-to-swim

For further detail on the 2017/18 results check out our Is it safe to swim? report at www.gw.govt.nz/Annual-monitoring-reports

For national recreational water quality data and information check out www.lawa.org.nz