

WELLINGTON

RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY
MONITORING RESULTS FOR THE
2017/18 SUMMER

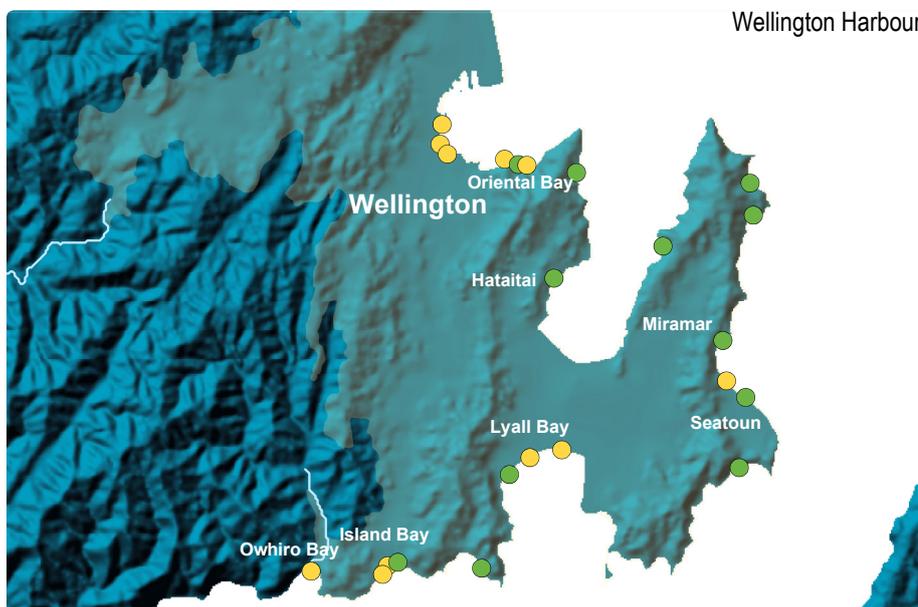
IS IT SAFE TO SWIM IN WELLINGTON?



Yes! It's safe to swim in most places

Most of the swimming spots we monitor in Wellington have fairly good water quality, except in poor weather conditions. There were a total of 21 exceedances of the guideline for safe swimming and most of these (81 percent) were associated with rainfall.

Wellington does however contains some of the poorest sites in the region including three inner harbour sites, two Island Bay sites, two Lyall Bay sites and Owhiro Bay. Sewage overflows during wet weather continue to be an issue for inner harbour sites and Wellington Water are working to improve the sewer and stormwater infrastructure in this area.



Wellington Harbour

Key

B – Low risk of illness 52%
(12 sites)

C – Sometimes* unsuitable for
swimming 48% (11 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 23 sites around the Wellington coastline. 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 Wellington 12 sites are graded B and 11 sites are graded C.

In Wellington:

12 sites are
graded **B**

11 sites are
graded **C**





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

Water quality around the coast of Wellington 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.

Only 21 of the 391 samples (five percent) taken over summer did not meet the guideline, and most 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*
Wellington Waterfront at Shed 6	1	1	C
Aotea Lagoon	2	1	C
Wellington Harbour at dive platform	2	2	C
Oriental Bay at Freyberg Beach	1	1	C↓
Oriental Bay at wishing well	1	1	B
Oriental Bay at band rotunda	2	0	C↓
Balaena Bay	1	1	B↑
Hataitai Beach	1	0	B
Shark Bay	0	NA	B
Mahanga Bay	1	1	B↓
Scorching Bay	1	1	B
Worser Bay	1	1	B
Seatoun Beach at wharf	1	1	C↓
Seatoun Beach at Inglis Street	0	NA	B
Breaker Bay	1	1	B
Lyll Bay at Tirangi Road	0	NA	C
Lyll Bay at Onepu Road	1	1	C↓
Lyll Bay at Queens Drive	0	NA	B
Princess Bay	1	1	B↓
Island Bay at Reef Street recreation ground	1	1	C
Island Bay at surf club	0	NA	B↑
Island Bay at Derwent Street	1	1	C↓
Owhiro Bay	1	1	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.

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