

BROMINE

TEST FOR FREE, COMBINED AND TOTAL BROMINE IN WATER

Photometer Method

AUTOMATIC WAVELENGTH SELECTION

0 – 10.0 mg/l

Bromine and bromine-release compounds are used for the disinfection of swimming pool water, and in many other water treatment systems. Accurate measurement of the bromine residual is an essential aspect of control of these processes.

The bromine level can be expressed in terms of the free bromine, combined bromine or total bromine residuals. However free and combined bromine are both considered powerful disinfectants and it is not normally necessary to differentiate between these two forms. For the majority of applications therefore the measurement of the total residual is sufficient.

The Palintest DPD bromine method provides a simple means of measuring bromine residuals over the range 0 - 10.0 mg/l. A supplementary procedure can be used to differentiate between free and combined bromine if desired.

Method

The Palintest bromine test uses the DPD method now internationally recognised as the standard method of testing for disinfectant residuals. In the DPD method the reagents are provided in tablet form for maximum convenience and simplicity of use.

Bromine reacts with diethyl-p-phenylene diamine (DPD) in buffered solution to produce a pink coloration. The intensity of the colour is proportional to the total bromine concentration and is measured using a Palintest Photometer.

For the separate determination of free and combined bromine, a supplementary procedure using sodium nitrite is used. The nitrite destroys the free bromine in the sample and the colour produced in the DPD test then corresponds to the combined bromine only. The free bromine content is thus obtained by difference between the total bromine and combined bromine results.

Reagents and Equipment

Palintest DPD No 1 Clear Tablets

Palintest DPD Nitrite Tablets

Palintest Automatic Wavelength Selection Photometer

Round Test Tubes, 10 ml glass (PT 595)

Separation of Bromine Residuals

The photometer is programmed for both total and free bromine. Use program Phot 5 Total Bromine, then select the 'Follow On' option on screen to continue test for program Phot 6 Free Bromine. The Free Bromine residual is calculated automatically.

Test Procedure

- 1 Rinse test tube with sample leaving two to three drops of sample in the tube.
- 2 Add one DPD No 1 tablet, crush tablet and then fill the test tube with sample to the 10 ml mark.
- 3 Select Phot 5 on the Photometer.
- 4 Take Photometer reading (%T) in usual manner (see Photometer instructions).
- 5 Result displayed is Total Bromine as mg/l Br.

For most purposes the test can be terminated at this stage. If it is desired to measure free and combined bromine, select 'Follow On' from screen options and proceed as indicated in the following section.

Test Procedure - Free and Combined Bromine

- 1 Fill test tube with sample to the 10 ml mark. Add one DPD Nitrite tablet, crush and mix to dissolve.
- 2 Take a second clean test tube and add two to three drops of solution from the first tube. Add one DPD No 1 tablet, crush and then add the remainder of the solution to make up to the 10 ml mark. Mix to dissolve tablet.
- 3 Take Photometer reading in usual manner.
- 4 The Photometer carries out the necessary calculation and displays the Free Bromine residual as mg/l Br.

Note

In systems containing both chlorine and bromine it is possible to differentiate between the chlorine and bromine residuals using a supplementary procedure involving Palintest DPD Glycine tablets. Details of this procedure are given on a separate instruction sheet.
