

WATER QUALITY AT EASTBOURNE BEACHES 2004

This chart shows the main results of the regular water quality tests done by the Environment Agency through the bathing season. The tests are done to check compliance with standards set in the Bathing Water directive.

	Beach	
	Pier to Wish Tower	Wish Tower to Holywell
Seaside Award		✓
Blue Flag	✓	
5 th May		
10 th May		
17 th May		
24 th May		
31 st May		
1 st June		
7 th June		
14 th June		
21 st June		
28 th June		
5 th July		
12 th July		
19 th July		
26 th July		
2 nd August		
1999		
2000		
2001		
2002		
2003		

What do the boxes mean?

Excellent

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

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

Good

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

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

Poor

Water quality in the sample failed to meet the main Mandatory standards.

What does a tick mean?

A tick in the appropriate box means this beach has been awarded a **Seaside Award/Blue Flag Award** by ENCAMS based on last year's results.

- Seaside Awards are presented to beaches that are well managed with excellent facilities, with mandatory water quality
- Blue Flag resorts additionally have guideline water quality
See the ENCAMS website: www.seasideawards.org.uk for more information.

What is the Bathing Water Directive?

The Directive sets limits for a number of substances, and all countries in the European Union have to ensure their popular beaches meet these standards.

What are Coliforms?

The Coliform group of bacteria are the most important of the Directive standards tested for. In general these can be taken as an indication of sewage contamination present. Faecal streptococci, taken into account for Guideline standards, are also indicators of sewage contamination.

How is water quality assessed over a bathing season?

In accordance with the Bathing Water Directive:

Guideline: Over the bathing season 80% of samples must be equal to or better than the stringent Faecal coliform Guideline standards, and 90% 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 main Mandatory standards.

Further details may be obtained by contacting Environmental Health at Eastbourne Borough Council, 68 Grove Road, Eastbourne, Tel: 410000; or the Environment Agency at Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road, Worthing, BN11 1LD, Tel: 01903 832000; or visit the Agency website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk