

Glasgow Wake Park

Water Quality Policy

Water Quality

The water quality on the Forth and Clyde Canal can vary from very good to poor. Our aim is to meet or exceed the "Excellent" standards set by the Bathing Waters (Scotland) Regulations 2008 for our area of the canal. We will test the canal water regularly through the year for E. Coli, Intestinal enterococci and Coliforms. Results of the last tests can be found on the water information board and compared to the standards. Every day before the park opens the canal will be checked for any obstructions, hazards or obvious pollutants within the water. Since we have started testing the water it has consistently been satisfactory under the bathing quality requirements however we are not in control of the water and due to the exposed nature of the canal there is always going to be inherent risk while in the water.

Water Clarity

Biological growth in the canal and basin varies according to the time of year and quantity of nutrients present in the water. This growth can affect the clarity of the water and can especially be seen in disturbed water. Due to the size and exposed nature of the basin, it is impossible to totally stop biological growth and some algae will always remain. While the reduced water clarity is not optimal from a visual respect, it does not pose any risk to swimmers and should not be associated with reduced water quality.

What are the risks?

In all open freshwater in the UK, including canals, there is a risk of catching various infections and diseases, and in particular for young children and those persons who are have weak immune systems.

Types of infections that are common include minor gastro-intestinal complaints, eye, ear and throat infections. Rarer but more serious diseases include *E. coli* O157, cryptosporidium, dysentery, Weil's disease (leptospirosis) and hepatitis A. The risk of contracting these diseases is very low but they can cause serious, even fatal, illness. The risk is greatly increased by ingestion of the canal water, particularly when the water quality is poor.

What can be done to reduce the risks on the canal?

The risk of contracting serious illness is low but by taking sensible precautions, the risk of infection can be further reduced. You should cover cuts with a waterproof dressing; wear footwear to protect feet from cuts; avoid ingestion of water and avoid unnecessary immersion, especially of the head. You should always wash your hands with liquid soap and fresh water immediately after any activity on the canal, even if you don't think you have been exposed to any of the canal water. If you have been in contact with the canal water, wash or shower afterwards using soap and freshwater especially before eating and drinking.

What should I do if I feel unwell after contact with canal water?

If you feel unwell following contact with the water, then see your doctor as soon as possible. Explain that you have been in contact with canal water and when and how this contact occurred. Then please contact ourselves to let us know.