

Alden Leeds, Inc.

Manufacturer of chemicals that care for your pool Technical Document #6

CYANURIC ACID TESTING

The Cyanuric Acid (Stabilizer) test is perhaps the most inconsistent water test performed. Some of the problems of reporting and reproducing accurate Cyanuric Acid readings are:

- 1) Temperature of the sample. Try to keep and test the water sample at room temperature. The colder the water, the lower the test result.
- 2) Waiting time before reading. Be consistent at the recommended 30 seconds before reading. The shorter the time interval, the lower the test result.
- 3) Viewing tube cloudiness. Due to a reaction with the Cyanuric reagent, Viewing Tubes become cloudy over a period of a few months. Be sure to rinse the Viewing Tube carefully after each use. Cloudy tubes are hard to read.
- 4) Reading higher levels of Cyanuric Acid. The markings of 60, 80, and 100 ppm level on the Viewing Tube are increasingly close together. Only a fraction of an inch separates the 60 ppm mark from the 100 ppm mark. Rather than guess in this higher range, redo the test by diluting the water sample in half with tap water to put the test result in a more readable range. Then double your reading to more accurately report the Cyanuric Acid level. Always dilute the water sample and redo the test when over 100 ppm.

An interesting problem with Cyanuric Acid results is that high levels of Cyanuric Acid notably affects Total Alkalinity. When measuring Total Alkalinity follow this formula:

Total Alkalinity - (Cyanuric Acid level x .30) = True Total Alkalinity