

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (May 28) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches (see Note 1) and one non-gazetted beach (i.e. Discovery Bay, see Note 2).

Twenty-nine beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), eight as Fair (Grade 2) and two as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Big Wave Bay Beach*	Lower Cheung Sha Beach
Cafeteria New Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Pui O Beach
Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach*	Repulse Bay Beach*
Chung Hom Kok Beach	Shek O Beach*
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Silver Mine Bay Beach*
Clear Water Bay Second Beach*	Silverstrand Beach*
Deep Water Bay Beach*	South Bay Beach
Golden Beach*	Stanley Main Beach*
Hap Mun Bay Beach*	St Stephen's Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach*	Tong Fuk Beach
Kadoorie Beach	Trio Beach
Kiu Tsui Beach	Turtle Cove Beach
Kwun Yam Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach
Lo So Shing Beach	

Grade 2 beaches are:

Approach Beach	Discovery Bay
Butterfly Beach*	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Casam Beach*	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach*
Castle Peak Beach	Ting Kau Beach

Grade 3 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach	Lido Beach*
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Compared with the grading released last week, Middle Bay Beach and Stanley Main Beach have been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1. Discovery Bay has been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2, and Lido Beach from Grade 2 to

Grade 3.

"The changes are generally within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of the beaches," an EPD spokesman said.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades, namely Good (Grade 1), Fair (Grade 2), Poor (Grade 3) and Very Poor (Grade 4), according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the EPD's website on Beach Water Quality (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

Note 1: The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has resumed lifeguard services at 16 gazetted beaches, marked with an asterisk above, from April 16.

Note 2: Discovery Bay is a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.