

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (August 12) 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).

Sixteen beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 21 as Fair (Grade 2) and two as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach*	Silverstrand Beach*
Clear Water Bay First Beach	South Bay Beach
Clear Water Bay Second Beach*	St Stephen's Beach
Hap Mun Bay Beach*	Stanley Main Beach*
Hung Shing Yeh Beach*	Tai Po Lung Mei Beach*
Kiu Tsui Beach	Tong Fuk Beach
Lo So Shing Beach	Trio Beach*
Repulse Bay Beach*	Upper Cheung Sha Beach

Grade 2 beaches are:

Approach Beach	Kwun Yam Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach	Lido Beach*
Butterfly Beach*	Lower Cheung Sha Beach*
Cafeteria New Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach*
Cafeteria Old Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Chung Hom Kok Beach	Pui O Beach*
Deep Water Bay Beach*	Shek O Beach*
Discovery Bay	Silver Mine Bay Beach*
Golden Beach*	Ting Kau Beach*
Hoi Mei Wan Beach	Turtle Cove Beach
Kadoorie Beach*	

Grade 3 beaches are:

Casam Beach*	Castle Peak Beach
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Compared with the grading released last week, Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach has been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2, and Casam 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.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches, the EPD spokesman reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a storm or heavy rainfall.

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: Lifeguard services are provided by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department at 21 gazetted beaches, marked with an asterisk (*) above, from August 6.

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