



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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LABORATORY TEST FACT SHEET

WATER TESTING OF SPA AND SWIMMING POOL WATER

ORDER CODE: 8045

TEST DESCRIPTIONS

Heterotrophic Plate Count (Order code: 8045)

Method: Colony count by pour plate

Standard Methods SM 9215 B

The heterotrophic plate count (HPC) procedure estimates the number of live heterotrophic bacteria in a water sample. The number of colony-forming units (CFUs) is the final colony count that may arise from pairs, chains, clusters, or single bacteria as well as interaction among developing colonies. The test does not differentiate between type of bacteria.

Reference range: There are no defined limits for this test.

Turnaround time: 2 days