

Does anyone test the water?

- Bristol City Council take weekly samples which are analysed for indicators of sewage contamination.



- Further monthly samples analyse pH, dissolved oxygen levels and conductivity.
- The Environment Agency take monthly samples which are analysed for a suite of parameters such as ammonia, dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand, heavy metals and nutrients.
- No viral analyses are routinely made.

Has the water quality improved?

Yes. Historical data shows that the faecal load to the Docks has reduced significantly since the early 1990's.

Water quality results



Weekly water sample results are posted at Baltic Wharf and the Harbour Office. Results can also be accessed online:

www.bristol.gov.uk/bristolharbour

Bristol Floating Harbour Recreational Facilities



Bristol Floating Harbour Health Advice



Important information for users of Bristol Floating Harbour



NOTE: SWIMMING IN THE HARBOUR IS PROHIBITED.



Health advice for users of the Floating Harbour



The Floating Harbour is used by many for recreational purposes ranging from rowing and sailing to wind surfing and fishing.

This leaflet is to let users know about the possible health risks associated with open water.

Risks to health from open water do exist but can be reduced provided people take care and are aware of the possible hazards.



So what are the risks?

- In all open fresh water in the UK there is always the chance of catching various infections and diseases. These include minor gastro-intestinal complaints and eye, ear and throat infections.
- Immunisation can minimise the risk from hepatitis, tetanus and poliomyelitis.
- There are other diseases for which there is no vaccine protection available such as Weil's disease (Leptospirosis) which is contracted from rats urine.
- Weil's disease is rare and the risk of contracting the disease is very low but it can cause serious, even fatal, illness.
- Weil's disease, in the first few days produces 'flu-like' symptoms, and if treated at this stage will lead to an early recovery.
- The incubation period is 1 - 2 weeks, but can be up to 3 weeks.



What can be done to reduce the risks?

The risks are low but by taking sensible precautions the risk of infection can be reduced.

These are:

- Wash or shower afterwards.
- Cover cuts with a waterproof dressing.
- Wear footwear to protect feet from cuts.
- If you suffer a graze or cut whilst using the harbour, the affected area should be cleaned and covered thoroughly as soon as possible.
- Avoid unnecessary immersion, especially of the head.

Bristol City Council has produced Water Safety Codes for recreational activities in the harbour which can be obtained from the Harbour Master's office.

What should I do?

If you feel off colour following any activity in the harbour when you have been in contact with the water then see your doctor immediately and take this leaflet with you.

REMEMBER THE GREATEST RISK FROM OPEN WATER IS DROWNING.