

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (May 21) 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-eight beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 10 as Fair (Grade 2) and one as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

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

Grade 2 beaches are:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Approach Beach | Lido Beach* |
| Butterfly Beach* | Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach* |
| Casam Beach* | Middle Bay Beach |
| Castle Peak Beach | Stanley Main Beach* |
| Hoi Mei Wan Beach | Ting Kau Beach |

Grade 3 beach is:

Anglers' Beach

Compared with the grading released last week, Discovery Bay has been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1. Approach Beach and Butterfly Beach have been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2.

"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.