

## pH Testing Guide

The pH of water is a measure of how acidic or alkaline the water is.

- On a scale of 1 to 14, normal fresh water has a pH of 7. If the water is acid, the value is less than 7 and if it is alkaline the value is greater than 7.
- Bentonite will mix best if the pH of make-up water is adjusted to be between 8 and 9.
- Polymers too, perform best in make-up water with a pH in the range 7 to 9.
- pH will affect mud mixing, viscosity, water loss, hole stability and core recovery.

### Method

- Lay one pH strip on the surface of the fluid with the coloured indicator squares face down and in direct contact with the fluid.
- Allow sufficient time for the indicator squares to soak up the liquid. This usually takes from a few seconds to a couple of minutes.
- Remove the pH strip from the fluid and if necessary, gently wash any drilling fluid from the strip.
- While the colour squares are still wet, match the pattern of the squares against the chart on the side of the dispenser.
- Record the pH test result to the nearest 0.5 pH unit.



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