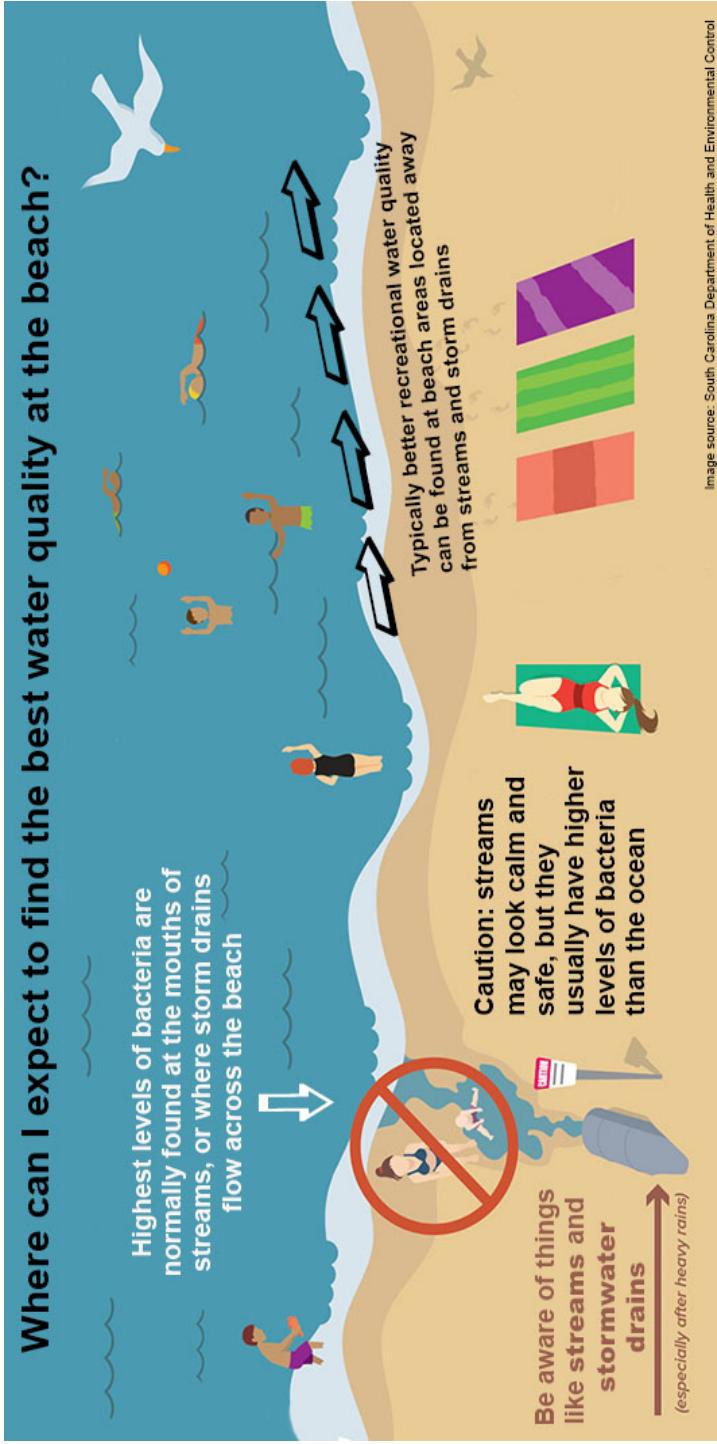


Where can I expect to find the best water quality at the beach?



Basic tips for enjoying your time at the beach:

- Keep informed – check out the websites noted on the other side of this brochure or ask a lifeguard – Know before you go!
- Observe advisories and safety hazard signs
- Avoid entering the water with cuts or open wounds
- Practice good hygiene by thoroughly washing off using showers after swimming or recreating at the beach
- Avoid wading and swimming in streams
- For more information: www.epa.gov/beaches

Hawaii's Beach Monitoring Program

Hawaii's beaches are well known for their beauty and clear blue waters. The State of Hawaii, Department of Health, Clean Water Branch routinely checks for contamination at popular beach sites throughout the state to help protect public health. However, especially after heavy rainfall or sewage spills, beaches can be affected by storm water flowing out of drainage pipes, channels, and streams. To help reduce the risk of illness, it is best to avoid these areas where bacteria levels may exceed recreational water quality standards.



Hawaii Department of Health
Clean Water Branch

When monitoring indicates a possible problem, the public is notified. Three (3) different types of signs are commonly used to advise everyone on beach water quality.



HIGH BACTERIA LEVELS

found here on _____

Contact with water
may cause illness

For information
health.hawaii.gov/cwb
(808) 586-5826

Hawaii State Department of Health



HIGH BACTERIA LEVELS FOUND

in ocean and stream
especially after heavy rainfall

Contact with water
may cause illness

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(808) 586-5826

Hawaii State Department of Health



- Temporary sign
- Bacterial levels exceed standards at this beach sampling location
- Potential health risk associated with swimming or wading in these ocean waters
- Beach remains open and people can decide their own comfort level of risk
- Sign removed when sampling results indicate compliance with state standards

- Permanent sign
- Bacteria levels frequently exceed standards at this beach sampling location
- Potential health risk associated with swimming or wading in ocean waters often contaminated by storm water from urban areas and other contaminated sources such as streams
- The beach remains open and people can decide their own comfort level of risk

- Temporary sign
- Wastewater spill has contaminated waters
- Beach users should avoid any and all water contact
- Signs remain posted until sampling results indicate compliance with state standards

For more information, please visit the Department of Health, Clean Water Branch website at health.hawaii.gov/cwb. The latest beach water quality warnings and advisories can also be heard on the Clean Water Branch Hotline at (808) 586-5826. Another useful website, www.hawaiibeachsafety.com, provides real-time wave and beach hazard information for popular beaches throughout the state.

Know before you go.