

When taking a water sample, use a new bottle that is just for water samples (many local retail pool stores give water sample bottles for free). This may sound a little extreme but you should never use glass around a pool because of the possibility of accidental breakage around the pool area. And many plastics will absorb some of the products that were in them. Because many of the test are measuring levels in the parts per million or parts per billion just a tiny residue can change the test results giving false readings. False readings can cause you to make the wrong adjustments wasting time and causing you to purchase products you don't really need.

Water samples should be taken from the deep end of the pool as far down into the water as you can safely reach. Take the sample to the pool store right away. Storing the sample or leaving the sample in a hot car while you do "other errands" will degrade the sample.