

Chlorine, Total

★Method 8370

DPD Method¹

Pour-Thru™ Cell

ULR (2 to 500 µg/L as Cl₂)

Scope and Application: For detecting trace levels of chlorine and chloramines in clean waters relatively free of color and turbidity; USEPA accepted for reporting for drinking water analysis

¹ U.S. Patent 5,362,650



Test Preparation

Before starting the test:

Analyze samples immediately. Samples containing chlorine cannot be preserved for later analysis.

A reagent blank value for a combined lot of indicator/buffer reagent solutions should be determined at least once a day. If sample color or turbidity fluctuates frequently during the day, determine a reagent blank for each sample.

Ampules contain more than 1.0 mL of solution for ease of transfer. Discard excess reagent in the ampule.

Refer to the instrument User Manual for Pour-Thru cell and module assembly and installation.

Protect the Pour-Thru Cell from contamination when not in use by inverting a small beaker over the top of the glass funnel.

Refer to [Treating Analysis Labware on page 6](#).

Collect the following items:

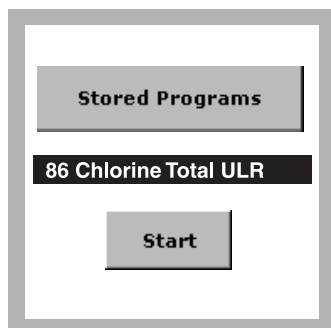
Quantity

ULR Chlorine Buffer Solution, 1.5-mL ampules	1 mL
DPD Indicator Solution for ULR Chlorine, 1.5-mL ampules	1 mL
Blanking Reagent for ULR Chlorine	1 mL
Beaker, 250 mL	1
Cylinder, graduated mixing, 50-mL.	1
Pipet, TenSette®, 0.1 to 1.0 mL	1
Pipet Tips for TenSette Pipet	2
Pour-Thru Module and cell	1

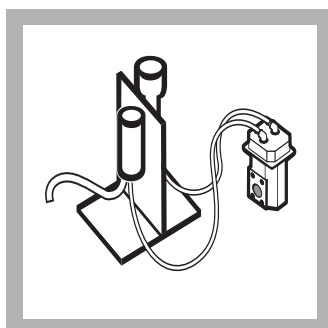
Note: Reorder information for consumables and replacement items is on [page 8](#).

Pour-Thru Cell

Method 8370

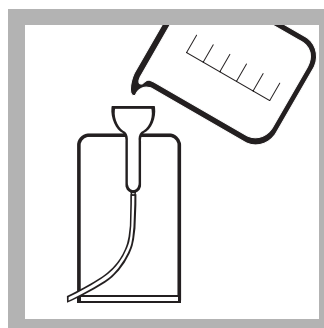


1. Select the test.

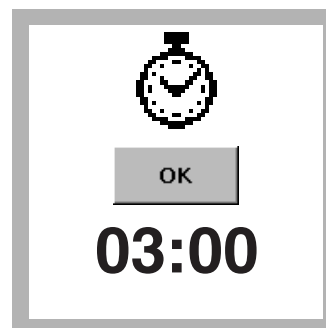


2. Install the Pour-Thru module and cell.

Flush the Pour-Thru cell with 50 mL of deionized water.

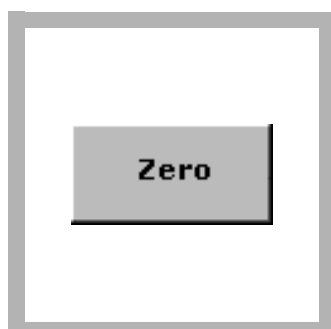


3. Pour at least 50 mL of sample into the Pour-Thru Cell.



4. When the flow stops, press **TIMER>OK**.

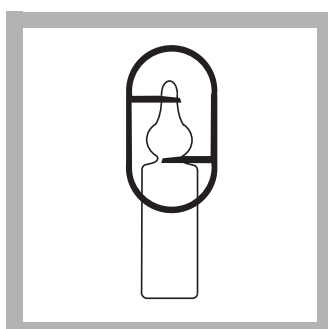
A three-minute reaction period will begin. This time allows turbidity or solids to settle and ensures a stable reading.



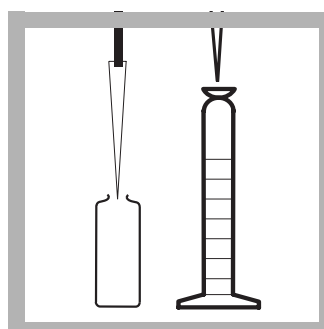
5. When the timer expires, press **ZERO**.

The display will show:

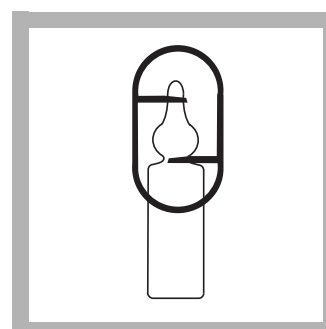
0 µg/L



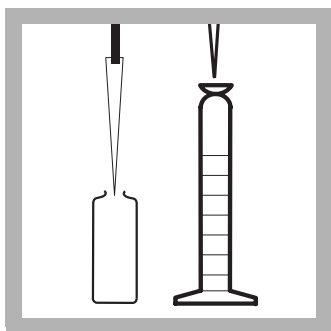
6. Break open one ULR Chlorine Buffer Solution Ampule.



7. Using a TenSette® Pipet and a clean tip, transfer 1.0 mL of buffer from the ampule to a clean, treated 50-mL graduated mixing cylinder.

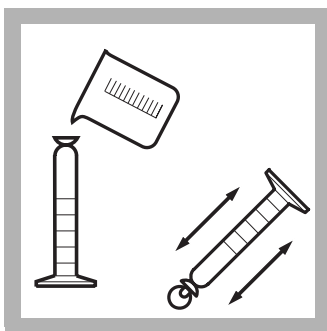


8. Break open one ampule of DPD Indicator Solution for Ultra Low Range Chlorine.

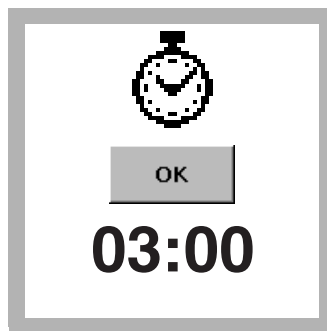


9. Using a TenSette Pipet and a clean tip, transfer 1.0 mL of indicator from the ampule to the graduated mixing cylinder. Swirl to mix.

Proceed to step 10 within one minute.



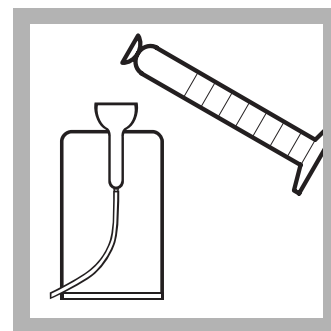
10. Prepared Sample: Avoiding extra agitation, carefully fill the cylinder to the 50-mL mark with sample. Stopper the cylinder. Gently invert it twice to mix.



11. Press **TIMER>OK**.

A three-minute reaction time will begin.

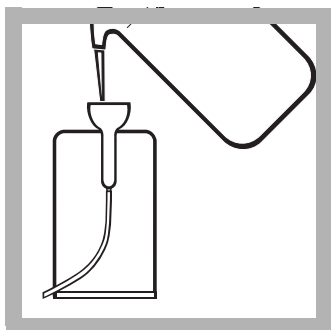
Measure the reacted sample 3–4 minutes after mixing the sample and reagents. If less than three minutes elapses, the reaction with chloramines may be incomplete. A reading after four minutes may result in higher reagent blank values.



12. Introduce the contents of the graduated mixing cylinder into the Pour-Thru cell.

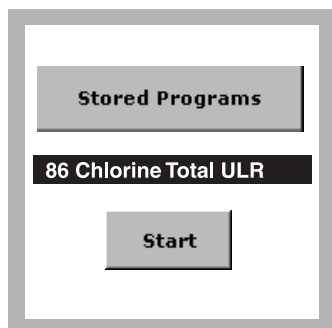
When the timer expires, read the result in µg/L chlorine.

If a dechlorinating agent (e.g. sulfite or sulfur dioxide) is present, the sample result (corrected for the reagent blank) will read “0” or a slightly negative value.

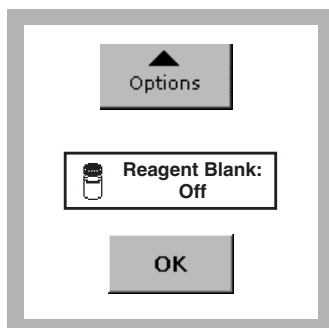


13. Flush the Pour-Thru Cell with at least 50-mL of deionized water immediately after use.

Determining the Reagent Blank Value

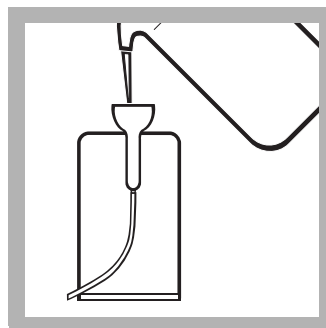


1. Select the test.



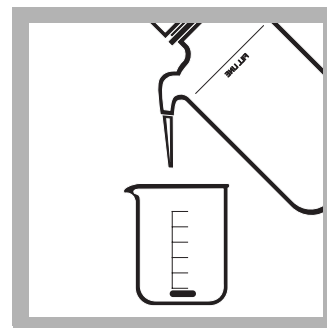
2. Make sure that the reagent blank setting is off.

Press **OPTIONS>MORE>REAGENT BLANK>OFF**. See the user manual for information.

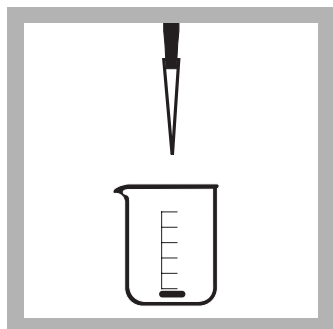


3. Install the Pour-Thru module and cell.

Flush the Pour-Thru cell with 50 mL of deionized water.

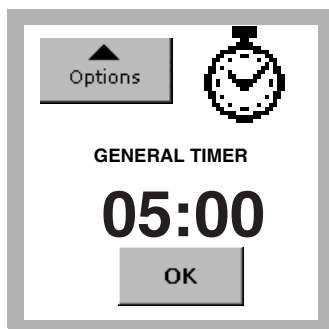


4. Collect about 100 mL of deionized or tap water in a clean, 250-mL beaker.



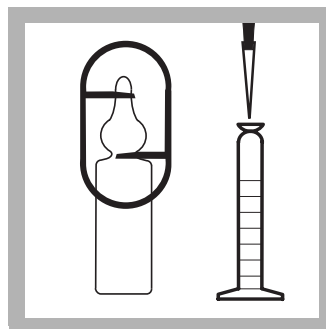
5. Using a TenSette® Pipet, add 1.0 mL of Blanking Reagent to the beaker. Swirl several times to mix.

The Blanking Reagent removes chlorine and chloramines from the water.

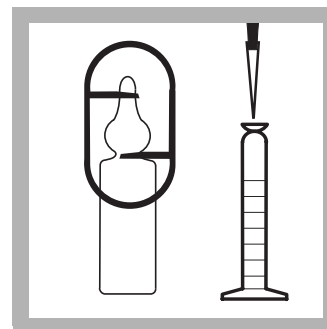


6. Press **OPTIONS>MORE>TIMER>GENERAL TIMER**.

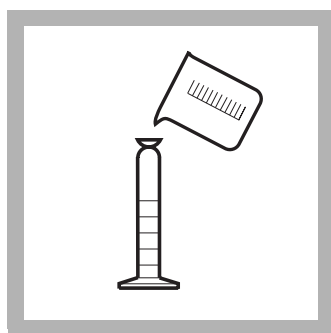
Set a 5-minute timer and press **OK**.



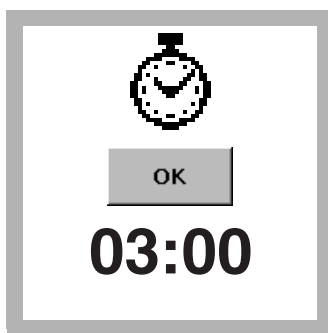
7. After the timer expires, break open one ampule of ULR Chlorine Buffer Solution. Using a TenSette Pipet and clean tip, transfer 1.0 mL of buffer from the ampule to a clean 50-mL mixing graduated cylinder.



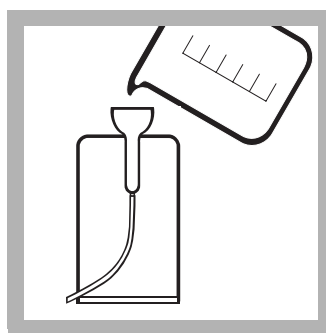
8. Break open one ampule of DPD Indicator Solution for Ultra Low Range Chlorine. Using a TenSette Pipet and a clean tip, transfer 1.0 mL of indicator from the ampule to the cylinder. Swirl to mix the reagents. Proceed to step 9 within one minute.



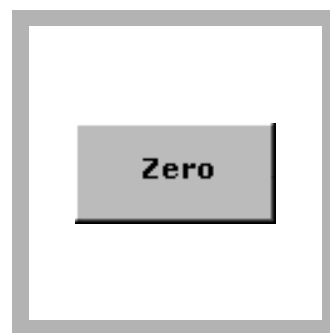
9. Fill the cylinder to the 50-mL mark with dechlorinated water from step 5. Cap and invert twice to mix. Save the remaining water for step 11.



10. Press **TIMER>OK**.
A three-minute reaction time will begin.

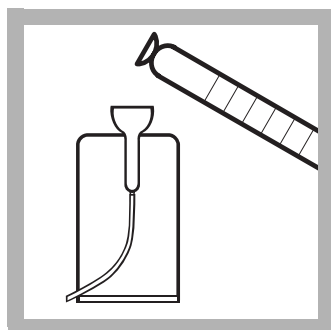


11. During the reaction period, flush the Pour-Thru Cell with the remainder of original dechlorinated water from step 9.

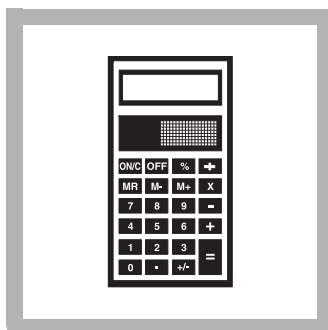


12. When the flow stops, press **ZERO**.

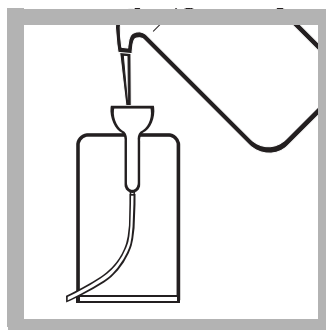
The display will show:
0 µg/L Cl₂.



13. When the timer expires, introduce the contents of the cylinder into the Pour-Thru Cell. Results are in µg/L chlorine.



14. Use this value to correct the sample result obtained in this procedure.
See the user manual for details on saving the reagent blank value.



15. Flush the Pour-Thru Cell with at least 50-mL of deionized water immediately after use.

Interferences

Table 1 Interfering Substances and Levels

Interfering Substance	Interference Levels and Treatments
Bromine, Br ₂	Interferes at all levels
Chlorine Dioxide, ClO ₂	Interferes at all levels
Chloramines, organic	May interfere
Copper, Cu ²⁺	Greater than 1000 µg/L
Iodine, I ₂	Interferes at all levels.
Iron (Fe ³⁺)	Greater than 1000 µg/L

Table 1 Interfering Substances and Levels (continued)

Interfering Substance	Interference Levels and Treatments												
Manganese, oxidized (Mn ⁴⁺ , Mn ⁷⁺) or Chromium, oxidized (Cr ⁶⁺)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adjust sample pH to 6–7 with 1.000 N Sulfuric Acid¹. 2. Add 9 drops Potassium Iodide (30 g/L)¹ to an 80-mL sample. 3. Mix and wait 1 minute. 4. Add 9 drops Sodium Arsenite^{1, 2} (5 g/L) and mix. 5. Analyze the treated sample as described in the procedure above. 6. Subtract the result of this test from the original analysis to obtain the correct concentration. 												
Nitrite, NO ₂ ⁻ (uncommon in clean waters)	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="584 541 932 583">mg/L nitrite</th> <th data-bbox="932 541 1279 583">Apparent µg/L chlorine</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="584 583 932 625">2.0 mg/L</td> <td data-bbox="932 583 1279 625">3 µg/L</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="584 625 932 667">5.0 mg/L</td> <td data-bbox="932 625 1279 667">5 µg/L</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="584 667 932 709">10.0 mg/L</td> <td data-bbox="932 667 1279 709">7 µg/L</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="584 709 932 751">15.0 mg/L</td> <td data-bbox="932 709 1279 751">16 µg/L</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="584 751 932 793">20.0 mg/L</td> <td data-bbox="932 751 1279 793">18 µg/L</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	mg/L nitrite	Apparent µg/L chlorine	2.0 mg/L	3 µg/L	5.0 mg/L	5 µg/L	10.0 mg/L	7 µg/L	15.0 mg/L	16 µg/L	20.0 mg/L	18 µg/L
mg/L nitrite	Apparent µg/L chlorine												
2.0 mg/L	3 µg/L												
5.0 mg/L	5 µg/L												
10.0 mg/L	7 µg/L												
15.0 mg/L	16 µg/L												
20.0 mg/L	18 µg/L												
Ozone	Interferes at all levels												
Peroxides	May interfere												
Extreme sample pH or highly buffered samples	Adjust to pH 6–7												

¹ See [Optional Reagents and Apparatus on page 8](#).

² Samples treated with sodium arsenite for interferences will be hazardous waste as regulated by the Federal RCRA for arsenic (D004). Refer to the current MSDS for safe handling and disposal instructions.

Sample Collection, Storage, and Preservation

Analyze samples for chlorine immediately after collection. Many factors, including reactant concentrations, sunlight, pH, temperature and salinity influence decomposition of chlorine in water.

Avoid plastic containers since these may have a large chlorine demand. Pretreat glass sample containers to remove any chlorine demand by soaking in a dilute bleach solution (0.5 mL commercial bleach to 1 liter of deionized water) for at least 1 hour. Rinse thoroughly with deionized or distilled water. If sample containers are rinsed thoroughly with deionized or distilled water after use, only occasional pre-treatment is necessary.

A common error in testing for chlorine is obtaining a representative sample. If sampling from a tap, let the water flow for at least 5 minutes to ensure a representative sample. Let the container overflow with the sample several times, then cap the sample containers so there is no headspace (air) above the sample. Perform the chlorine analysis immediately.

Treating Analysis Labware

Glassware used in this test must be chlorine demand-free. Fill the 100-mL mixing cylinder and sample container with a dilute solution of chlorine bleach prepared by adding 1 mL of commercial bleach to 1 liter of water. Soak in this solution at least one hour. After soaking, rinse thoroughly with deionized water and allow to dry before use.

Treat the Pour-Thru Cell similarly with dilute bleach and let stand for several minutes. Rinse several times with deionized water.

Cleaning the Pour-Thru Cell

The Pour-Thru Cell may accumulate a buildup of colored reaction products, especially if the reacted solutions are allowed to remain in the cell for long periods after measurement. Remove the buildup by rinsing the cell with 5.25 N Sulfuric Acid* followed by several rinsings with deionized water.

Accuracy Check

Standard Additions Method (Sample Spike)

1. After reading test results, leave the sample cell (unspiked sample) in the instrument.
2. Press **OPTIONS>MORE**. Press **STANDARD ADDITIONS**. A keypad will appear. Enter the average chlorine concentration shown on the certificate enclosed with the chlorine voluette ampules. Multiply the mg/L concentration on the label by 1000 to enter this value as µg/L. Press **OK**.
3. A summary of the Standard Additions procedure will appear. Press **OK** to accept the values for standard concentration, sample volume, and spike volumes as shown. Press **Edit** to change these values. After values are accepted, the unspiked sample reading will appear in the top row. See the user manual for more information.
4. Snap the top off a Low Range Chlorine Voluette® Ampule Standard Solution, 25 to 30-mg/L (25,000 to 30,000 µg/L) Cl₂.
5. Prepare three sample spikes. Use the TenSette® Pipet to add 0.1, 0.2 and 0.3 mL of standard to three 50-mL samples, respectively. Swirl gently to mix.
6. Analyze each sample spike as described in the procedure above, starting with the 0.1 mL sample spike. Accept each standard additions reading by pressing **READ**. Each addition should reflect approximately 100% recovery.
7. After completing the sequence, press **GRAPH** to view the best-fit line through the standard additions data points, accounting for the matrix interferences. Press **IDEAL LINE** to view the relationship between the sample spikes and the "Ideal Line" of 100% recovery.

Method Performance

Precision

Standard: 295 µg/L Cl₂

Program	95% Confidence Limits of Distribution
86	290–300 µg/L Cl ₂

Sensitivity

Portion of Curve	ΔAbs	ΔConcentration
Entire range	0.010	17 µg/L Cl ₂

* See [Optional Reagents and Apparatus on page 8](#).

Summary of Method

This method is designed for clean water, low in color and turbidity. The main applications include monitoring for trace chlorine break-through of activated carbon beds and feedwater to reverse osmosis membranes or ion-exchange resins.

Several modifications to the normal DPD chlorine method are necessary to measure trace levels of chlorine. The Pour-Thru Cell must be used in the spectrophotometer. Liquid reagents are also required. The reproducible optics of the Pour-Thru Cell give more stable readings than is possible with movable sample cells, resulting in more stable measurements.

The reagents are packaged in ampules and sealed under argon gas to ensure stability. Use of liquid reagents eliminates any slight turbidity that might be caused by using powdered reagents. Due to the possible oxidation of the reagents (which could give a positive chlorine reading in the blank), a reagent blank must be determined at least once a day for each lot of reagent used. This reagent blank value is subtracted from the sample result and the corrected value is the actual chlorine concentration. Test results are measured at 515 nm.

Consumables and Replacement Items

Required Reagents

Description	Quantity/Test	Unit	Cat. No.
ULR Chlorine Reagent Set (approximately 20 tests), includes:			25630-00
ULR Chlorine Buffer Solution, 1.5-mL ampules	1 mL	20/pkg	24931-20
DPD Indicator Solution for ULR Chlorine, 1.5-mL ampules	1 mL	20/pkg	24932-20
Blanking Reagent for ULR Chlorine	1 mL	29 mL	24930-23

Required Apparatus

Description	Quantity/Test	Unit	Cat. No.
Beaker, 250-mL	1	each	500-46H
Cylinder, graduated mixing, 50-mL	1	each	1896-41
Pipet, TenSette®, 0.1 to 1.0 mL	1	each	19700-01
Pipet Tips, for TenSette Pipet 19700-01	2	50/pkg	21856-96
Pour-Thru Cell Module Kit	1	each	LZV479

Recommended Standards

Description	Unit	Cat. No.
Chlorine Standard Solution, Voluette® Ampule, 25–30 mg/L, 2-mL	20/pkg	26300-20

Optional Reagents and Apparatus

Description	Cat. No.
Potassium Iodide, 30 g/L 100 mL	343-32
Sodium Arsenite, 5 g/L 100 mL	1047-32
Sulfuric Acid, 1 N 100 mL	1270-32
Sulfuric Acid, 5.25 N 1000 mL	2449-53



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