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## **Water Testing Team Lecture**

We test water for many different reasons. They include dissolved oxygen, pH, phosphates, nitrogen and ammonia. The different elements that effect the water quality are temperature, precipitation sunlight and the atmosphere among many others. We test water to find out if it is healthy for plants and animals and to see if the water is safe to drink. It is also tested to see if the chemicals in the water are at a tolerable and healthy level.

Liquids can be divided into two categories, acids and bases. Acids are sour liquids that contain many hydrogen atoms. Sour liquids like vinegar and lemon juice are usually acids. Bases are total opposites of acids. They contain hydroxide ions, and feel soapy and slippery. Acidic or basic conditions of a liquid are measured by a special scale called a pH scale. Acid solutions have a pH ranging from 6-1, 6 being the weakest 1 being the strongest. While bases have a pH between 8 and 14. Eight is the weakest base and 14 is the strongest base. PH between 6 and 8 are considered neutral.