



OPERATING A PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Marin County Environmental Health Services

The State Pool Code contains excerpts from The California Health and Safety Code, The California Code of Regulations and The California Building Code. Public swimming pools are expected to operate in accordance with these codes as a matter of good business practice, protection of the public health and legal obligation. Effective January 1, 2015, the Pool Code was updated with new requirements. A complete description of public swimming pool regulations may be found in the pamphlet, *The Design, Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Public Swimming Pools*. This pamphlet may be obtained online. <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/environmental-health-services/pools-and-spas>

INSPECTION REPORTS AND COMPLIANCE: Public swimming pools, spas, and spray grounds in Marin County are inspected by Environmental Health Services (EHS). Inspection reports are issued to the owner or manager by mail, email, or in person. The reports document violations of State law and direct corrective actions. Often, the inspection report will indicate a **reinspection date**. On or after this date, the inspector will re-inspect the pool to verify compliance. If the violations are not corrected, the owner of the pool, as authorized by the Board of Supervisors, can be billed based on the extra time required for EHS to achieve compliance. Further non-compliance may result in procedures to suspend or revoke the permit to operate a public swimming pool. Unsafe conditions will routinely result in immediate pool closure.

REMODELING, EQUIPMENT CHANGES, AND NEW CONSTRUCTION: Contact EHS **prior** to new construction, remodeling (including re-plastering and deck replacement), or equipment changes (including suction drain covers, pumps, motors and filters). In many cases, a permit will be required. In all cases, EHS must approve work first, except when equipment is being replaced with an exact duplicate. Equipment shall meet NSF Standards.

STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAW REQUIREMENTS:

- **CHEMICAL LEVEL REQUIREMENTS HAVE CHANGED.** The required levels for free residual chlorine in a pool are **1.0-10 ppm**, or **2.0-10 ppm** when a cyanuric-acid stabilizer is used. Spas, wading pools, and spray grounds require **3.0-10 ppm** at all times. The pH must be maintained between **pH 7.2 – 7.8**. The maximum level for cyanuric-acid stabilizer is **100 ppm**.
Chemical levels outside of these legal requirements often result in immediate pool closure.
- **DAILY RECORDS** shall be maintained by a designated pool operator. Information shall include: disinfectant residual, **COMBINED CHLORINE READINGS**, pH, operation corrections, and maintenance procedures such as cleaning of filters, quantity of chemicals used, calibration of chemical control equipment, etc. Pool operators are now required to record **accident events** involving fecal, blood and vomit contamination, as well as **drowning** and near-drowning incidents.
- All pools, regardless of age, shall meet anti-entrapment (VGB) regulations. Anti-entrapment equipment, including covers and safety vacuum release systems (SVRS), must be compliant and operable.
- All gates to the pool area shall open outward, and shall be **self-closing** and **self-latching**.
- Circulation and disinfection equipment must be operating during all times a pool is open for use.
- Chlorine tablets placed in the skimmer or in a floating dispensing device are not allowed. Placing the wrong type of tablet into a dispenser may create mustard gas or explosions.
- Automatic pool cleaning equipment (such as pool sweeps) must be detached and removed before opening a pool.
- American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance is enforced by the Justice Dept., local Bldg. Dept. and private parties in court. EHS recommends an ADA evaluation of your pool by a certified consultant or a trained architect.

Various information relating to public pools is available at the State website: <https://cdph.ca.gov>

This information has been provided to the owner/manager of the following public swimming pool:

Pool Name & Address: _____ License #: _____

Owner Name: _____ In person By mail email

R. E. H. S. _____ Date: _____

All County publications are available in alternative formats (Braille, Large Print, or CD), upon request. Requests for accommodations may be made by calling (415) 473-4381 (Voice) 473-3232 (TDD/TTY) or by e-mail at disabilityaccess@marincounty.org. Copies of documents are available in alternative formats, upon request.