



Important Public Swimming Pool Requirements

Water Clarity

Bottom drain must always be clearly visible.

Temperature

A maximum temperature of 104°F (for spas). There is no minimum temperature requirement.

Superchlorination

Superchlorination is the process of adding enough free chlorine residual to reach at least ten (10) times the combined chlorine level. This free chlorine level must be maintained for one complete turnover (6 hours for a swimming pool; 2 hours for a wading pool; 30 minutes for a spa). The pool must remain closed until the free chlorine residual is below 10.0 ppm. Higher Disinfection levels are required for fecal accidents.

Critical items

A public swimming pool must be closed immediately for any of the following items:

- Gate not self-latching and/or self-closing from any position;
- Main drain not clearly visible and/or secure;
- Free disinfectant residual below the specified level;

- Total disinfectant residual above 10 ppm;
- Any lifesaving equipment that is missing, inoperable, not accessible, or in poor repair (see next item)

**Closure of a public swimming pool is the responsibility of the pool operator.*

Lifesaving equipment

One (1) unit of lifesaving equipment is required for every 2000 sq. feet of pool surface area. A unit of lifesaving equipment consists of:

- A lifepole or shepherd's crook with a blunted end and a minimum fixed length of 12 feet.
- A ring buoy attached to a rope 1½ times the width of the pool, but not longer than 60 feet.
- Where a lifeguard is provided, a rescue tube may be used instead of a ring buoy.
- Lifesaving equipment must be mounted in conspicuous places and distributed around the pool deck.

All pool incidents that result in death or serious injury that require assistance from emergency personnel must be reported to the commissioner by the owner or the owner's agent by the end of the next working day.

Certified Pool Operator (CPO) responsibilities

- Test water chemistry results daily and record these test results in a log sheet.
- Adjust and maintain water chemistry to meet requirements.
- Maintain filters, gauges, flow meters, piping, and other operational equipment.
- An operation manual must be available that provides operational information relating to all pool equipment.
- Post CPO certificate on site (CPO certification is valid for five (5) years).

Outdoor pools

All outdoor public swimming pools and spas must receive an inspection and approval by the Anoka County Environmental Services Department before opening for the season.

To report a suspected waterborne or foodborne illness, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 1-877-366-3455 (or 651-201-5655 from the Twin Cities) or email health.foodill@state.mn.us.

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4/2020