



Cowlitz County HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Volume 1

Water Recreation Facility Newsletter

January 2007

Pool Contamination

What do you do when someone vomits or defecates in your pool or spa? Waterborne protozoans, viruses and germs such as Cryptosporidium, Giardia, E. coli O157:H7, Shigella and Norovirus can be spread among pool users when one of these accidents occurs.

Some organisms, such as Cryptosporidium, that are present in loose stools and sick individuals are resistant to chlorine so it is important to respond to incidences quickly and thoroughly.

The main things to remember when an incident occurs is:

1. Have users exit the pool immediately.
2. Evaluate whether the incident involves loose stool or a person who is sick.
3. Follow the proper disinfection procedures and then follow that with a backwash of your filters.

Use the procedures in the Pool Contamination Guidelines and keep a record of the incident and the procedures taken to mitigate it.

Along with the guideline is a High Chlorine Dosage Worksheet for pools contaminated with loose stool; or stool or vomitus from a suspected ill person. This worksheet is intended for pools who can't close the required 24 hours when that type incident occurs.

For a copy of the Guideline please see the Water Recreation section of our website or stop by the office to pick up a copy.

June 1, 2008 Barrier/Main Drain Requirements

On October 31, 2004 the new Water Recreation Facility regulations went into effect. They include the requirement to upgrade existing barriers and pools with single main drains by June 1, 2008.

The following is a review of the upgrades required for existing pools that do not currently comply with regulations. Failure to comply with upgrade requirements can jeopardize your permit.

Main Drains

Swimming pools with only a single main drain are required to install an emergency shut off switch for all pumps that control recirculation of the pool water. The shut off switch must be located within 20 feet of the pool and marked with an emergency shut off sign. The shutoff switch must include an audible alarm which can be heard by those in the area, or have an alarm that goes to a point where staff is always present during the periods the pool is open. Other options instead of the shutoff switch and alarm can be considered (i.e. installing a second

main drain), please contact the health department if you are interested in pursuing this or another option to meet this requirement.

Barriers

All fencing must meet the new regulations by June 1, 2008 as well. These barrier requirements include:

- 5 foot minimum fence height for limited use pools (apartments, motels, condos)
- 6 foot minimum fence height for outdoor general use pools (schools, municipal, clubs)
- Solid barriers may not have indentations or protrusions
- Latches for limited use pools need to be at least 5 feet high or continuously locked and require a key
- (continued) lower than 5 feet require an 18 inch radius of solid material around the latch. *Please note the 5 foot height requirement for latches may not be ADA(Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant.* Contact the local building department to discuss compliance with ADA.
- No openings in the barrier can allow passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.
- Chain link mesh size shall not exceed 1 1/4 inches.
- Barriers that have horizontal members that are spaced less than 45 inches apart may not have spaces between vertical members greater than 1 3/4 inches
- Gates/doors must continue to be self-closing and self latching for limited use pools

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Did you know that one hour of swimming burns more calories than are contained in 2 cans of soda.  
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Upcoming Certified Pool Operator Classes

Date	City	Contact #	Contact Name
February 14-15	Bellevue	425-641-2995	Michael Dilley
March 15-16	Beaverton	360-241-7665	Phil Oaks
May 10-11	Vancouver	360-241-7665	Phil Oaks
May 16-17	Bellevue	425-641-2995	Michael Dilley

See www.NSPF.com for more CPO Classes

Program Contact Info

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Test Kit Information

A updated test kit is important for every pool or spa operator. It is necessary for every pool/spa operator to be able to adequately test for disinfectant levels, pH, alkalinity and cyanuric acid (if used) or any other chemicals routinely used in the water. Below is a list of things to consider when using a test kit.

1. The reagents used to test for water quality in pools should be replaced yearly or if left exposed to intense heat or direct sunlight. Mark the dates on your reagents to keep track of there age.
2. Store the test kit in a cool dry area away from pool chemicals.
3. Make sure reagents used go with the test kit you have. Do not mix and match reagents .
4. Follow the Test Kit Instructions.
5. Take a representative sample of the pool water. Avoid taking samples in front of the inlets or directly on the surface of the water.
6. Use clean equipment for tests.
7. Water quality should be tested frequently as the water chemistry can change rapidly. At a minimum; disinfectant levels and pH need to be tested daily. Alkalinity and cyanuric acid (if used) need to be tested at least weekly.
8. When reading a maximum disinfectant level on a test kit, it is important to retest the pool water and dilute the new sample with drinking water (preferably bottled/distilled water) to get a more accurate reading for the disinfectant level. Also be sure you are using a DPD style test kit for disinfectant levels.
9. Hold reagent bottles straight up & down when adding reagents to maintain accurate readings.
10. Record your water quality readings and adjustments made to the pool. Records are required to be kept for a minimum of three years. Log sheets are available on our website.
11. Spa temperatures are required to be checked daily to verify the temperature stays below 104F.

Preparing to Open Seasonal Pools

As the pool season approaches there are some tasks that should be completed to make sure the pool is ready when the summer season begins. The following is a list of some things to consider before opening seasonal pools for the summer.

- Check to verify that all pool doors/gates are completely self-closing and self-latching.
- Make sure there are no climbable objects on the outside of the pool barrier that could allow children to climb the fence.
- Verify all emergency equipment is onsite and functioning. This would include emergency phones, spa shut-off switch and alarm, reach pole with life hook, throwing rescue device (life ring), and that first aid kits are fully stocked.
- Make sure test kit is ready (see Test Kit Information)
- Annually notify users of the pool rules at apartments and condominiums (WAC requires that users be notified annually of the age restriction rules)
- Check to make sure pump, chlorinator and filters are all working properly
- Check to make sure bathrooms are stocked with paper towels, soap, hot and cold running water and toilet paper.

Owner/Operator Changes

Please remember that when your facility transfers ownership, the new owner is required to obtain a permit as Water Recreation Facility permits are non-transferable. New owners are not allowed to operate the pool facility without a proper permit in their own name.

We recommend that the new owner gets their permit at least 14 days

before they officially take over ownership. If the new owner acquires the permit less than seven days prior to operating a fast track fee will be applied to the permit.

It is also important to ensure that if a new owner/operator takes over, the new staff is properly trained on maintaining the pool facility.

Website

Handouts and information on swimming pool rules, safety, and illnesses can be found in the Water Recreation section of our website

www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/health

Do you need to develop a Pool Operating Manual (required by WAC)? The Guide for Developing A Pool Operating Manual will be available shortly on our website.