



COWLITZ COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Volume 8

THE TIDY POOL

January 2015

Is your pool in compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety

During inspections of swimming pools this year it is clear that several pools have not complied with the VGB Pool & Spa Safety Act that was signed into law by President Bush in 2007. This article is intended to be a reminder that you are still required to comply with this law even though the Cowlitz County Health Department does not evaluate or enforce the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa during routine inspections.

As a reminder the law has requirements for:

- All pools to have suction outlets that comply with ANSI/APSP 16-2011. Suction outlets include main drains and equalizer lines for skimmers.
- Additional entrapment protection for pools/spas with only a single main drain as defined by the federal law. Some pools with multiple drains may be considered single main drains depending on piping and spacing of drains. **Manual shut off switches installed to comply with state rules do not comply with the federal law.**

More information can be found at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/WaterRecreation/RegulatedFacilities/RulesandGuidelines>

Virginia Graeme Baker Drain Cover Expiration Dates

Did you know that pool main drain covers installed to comply with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety have expiration dates? Make sure to review your records for installation date of grates and to determine the manufacturers life expectancy of the grates. The grates typically have expiration dates between 3-10 years after installation of grates. If your grates are past the expiration date then your pool is no longer in compliance with the ANSI/APSP 16-2011 standard. The federal law requires that your grates be in compliance with ANSI/APSP 16-2011 standard regarding pool grates which includes the expiration date requirement.

More information can be found about proper installation of grates at the following web address:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/WaterRecreation/RegulatedFacilities/RulesandGuidelines>

FREE POOL TRAINING

Cowlitz County Health Department will be hosting a free training for pool and spa operators on May 13, 2015 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Cowlitz County Boathouse Training Center. The training will be conducted by Paul Reeves, Washington State Department of Health Water Recreation Program. The training will cover a variety of pool operation topics. Please RSVP to Debby Johnson at johnsond@co.cowlitz.wa.us or by phone at 360-414-5599 ext 6441 by April 15, 2015. A flyer will be mailed with more detailed information.

Reinspection Fees

Pool inspection data from several years indicates Cowlitz County pools and spas have almost twice the number of pool closure violations per inspection compared to other counties. Besides increasing education efforts we are implementing a reinspection fee for 2015, to cover the cost of follow-up inspections. Inspections with closure violations documented during the routine inspection will result in a fee. Inspections with closure violations that are corrected during the inspection will be assessed a fee; however, each year the first closure violation that is corrected will be exempt from this fee. If you have any questions please contact our office.

Program Contact Info

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Secretary

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Trichlor Usage for Erosion Feeders

Trichlor is the most commonly used chlorine in erosion feeders in Cowlitz County. We wanted to remind you of the main issues concerning using trichlor chlorine that you need to be aware of to properly maintain your pool.

- It lowers your pH significantly. Remember to measure pH regularly and add pH increaser (soda ash) as needed to raise your pH level to appropriate level. If the pH is around 7.2 during the morning testing then adding pH increaser would be appropriate for trichlor based pools since the chlorine is going to lower the pH even further throughout the day.
- Trichlor continually adds cyanuric acid to the pool. While cyanuric acid is recommended for outdoor pools to protect the chlorine from being destroyed by the sun's ultraviolet rays, it also makes the chlorine less effective as a disinfectant. It is recommended to have cyanuric acid levels below 50ppm and it is required that it not exceed 90ppm. The only way to keep cyanuric acid levels at appropriate levels when using trichlor tablets is to regularly partially drain pool water and add fresh drinking water to the pool.
- Trichlor like other chlorine compounds is highly reactive and can cause fires, burns and explosions. Please keep trichlor separate from other chemicals including other types of chlorine. Handle chemicals with gloves and goggles to protect yourself. Use chemical specific measuring cups and always add chemicals to water and not water to chemicals when diluting chemical.
- Use unstabilized chlorine such as calcium hypochlorite when shocking pools or raising chlorine with granular chlorine so as not to add more cyanuric acid. Using dichlor or trichlor to shock will just require you to drain your pool more often.

Pool Records Requirements

Records are required to be maintained everyday the pool is open and be kept on file for at least three years. Log sheets are available on our website at http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/health/environmentalhealth/living_environment/recwatersafety.htm. Properly maintained pool records can be useful during shift changes, to identify potential problems with the pool and for liability purposes.

Item to be Recorded	Frequency
Chlorine/Bromine	Taken as often as needed to verify they are within acceptable ranges and at least daily
pH	Taken as often as needed to verify they are within acceptable ranges and at least daily
Alkalinity	Weekly
Cyanuric Acid	Weekly (if used)
Spa Pool Temperature	Daily
Flow Rates	Daily
Chemicals Added To Pool	Quantities to be recorded when added to pool
Incidents of known pool water contamination	Whenever incident occurs

Area Certified Pool Operator Classes

February 21-22, 2015	Vancouver, WA	Bill Sexton	443-614-4789	billsexton@bestaquatic.com
March 24-25, 2015	Portland, OR	Bill Sexton	443-614-4789	billsexton@bestaquatic.com
April 4-5, 2015	Portland, OR	Brett Oncale	504-415-2161	archangels@bellsouth.net

Please see www.NSPF.org for more CPO Class Listings.