



In The Swim



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Information for Commercial Pool Operators and Owners

Clark County Public Health, Recreational Water Program

2016 Spring Newsletter

NEW WEBSITE

Clack County has a new and improved website. Visit us at www.clark.wa.gov to find helpful resources:

- Operation guidelines
- Printable logs for your daily/weekly tests
- Inspection results
- Injury report forms
- Links to resources such as CPO classes and CDC websites.



Scan this with your smart phone for instant access to our website

INSPECTION:

New in 2015: a policy has been implemented to address repeating critical violations. Three consecutive critical violations will automatically result in a follow-up inspection with an associated fee. To prevent repeating violations, ensure that corrections are made in a timely manner and regular maintenance is occurring.

Barrier protection: Why you should care

Your pool and spa barriers are the first defense against accidental drowning. Barriers keep out unauthorized bathers and prevent children from wondering onto the pool deck unsupervised. In 2008, changes were made to barrier code requirements. Due to the risks associated with unsecured barriers, existing barriers cannot be “grandfathered” in. To ensure your barriers are up to standards, verify the following requirements are met:

Height: Pools/spas that are limited to residents and guests should have barriers that are at least 60 inches tall. All pools/spas open to the general public should have barriers that are at least 72 inches tall.

Spacing: No part of the barrier can allow a 4-inch sphere to pass through.

Fence mesh: Meshing should not exceed 1.25 inches.

Gates and other entry points: All entry points must be self closing and self latching with protections that prevents children from entering the pool deck. For example, entry points can be secured with key access or a fob, or have a handle 60 inches from the ground.



Highlight: Water test kits and record keeping

Inadequate log keeping was a commonly documented violation in 2015. Log keeping is a requirement that provides necessary documentation of your work. Logs are also a great tool for pool operators to identify any issues with water quality and equipment.

To get the most out of your logs, ensure you are keeping track of the daily and weekly water quality tests as well as any chemical treatments or routine maintenance you may be doing.

Keep in mind these logs only represent the minimum requirements. The more you log, the better your records will be. Consider creating a checklist to include emergency equipment checks and barrier walks to improve the safety of your facility.



Is your pool ready for swim season?

Barrier checklist

- Are there any gaps that a 4-inch sphere could fit through?
- Do all the gates self-close and self-latch?
- Does the fence mesh exceed 1.25 inches?
- Are there any other risks that may allow unauthorized access?
- Are the handles for each entrance at 60 inches or secured with a keyed entry?

Pool deck checklist

- Are there any trip hazards on the deck?
- Is the deck furniture organized to allow room for emergencies?
- Are your signs readable, filled in, and current for your facility's rules?
- Are the handrails secured?
- Are there any rough or abrasive areas that need to be addressed?

Emergency equipment

- Does your emergency phone dial out?
- Pool: is your double crook hook on a 12-foot solid pole and is your life ring attached to a rope?
- Spa: does your emergency shut off make an audible sound while turning off the main drain and jet pumps?

Your recreational water team is here to help

We have trained additional staff to serve on the recreational water program!

To be connected to the Environmental Health Specialist for your area, contact eph@clark.wa.gov or call (360) 397-8428.

We look forward to working with you!



P.O. Box 9825
Vancouver, WA 98666
<http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/pools/pools.html>



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For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office: **Voice** (360) 397-2322; **Relay** 711 or (800) 833-6388; **Fax** (360) 397-6165; **E-mail** ADA@clark.wa.gov.