

Environmental Health Services Division

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Understanding when you need to close your pool

Washington State Water Recreation Facility regulations require that owners shall close the facility when the pool or spa presents an unhealthful, unsafe or unsanitary condition. These conditions include lack of compliance with water quality or operational requirements (including WAC 246-260-111 and 131). The regulations also specify that water quality parameters be checked frequently enough to maintain compliance with the requirements.

If while conducting an inspection, your Environmental Health investigator finds that your pool or spa is operating outside these code requirements (see below), the investigator will close the facility. In many cases the investigator will later conduct a follow up inspection to confirm compliance. Those facilities that do not maintain a pool or spa in compliance with the requirements will cover the return inspection cost through reinspection fees. The charge for a reinspection is 50% of the operating permit.

Conditions that require actions on the part of the facility to avoid a closure and reinspection by Public Health include:

- If water clarity or water quality is outside the chlorine and combined chlorine or bromine, pH, water clarity, cyanuric acid or temperature range listed in Tables 111.1 or 111.2, the facility must close until water clarity and quality is restored to the acceptable range. (See specifics on the back of this form.)
- If submerged suction main drain or equalizer outlet covers are broken, missing, or not secure, the facility must close until covers are properly installed.
- If the filtration or disinfectant equipment is not functioning, the facility must close until the problem is corrected.
- If the recirculation pump or overflow system (skimmers or gutters) is not working, the facility must close until the system is repaired.
- If a barrier gate or door in a non-lifeguarded pool is not properly self-closing and self-latching, the gate or door must be locked until it is working properly.
- If required lifeguards or attendants are not present, the facility must be closed.

Let us know how we can help you maintain your pool or spa in a healthy, safe and sanitary condition.

Environmental Services Offices
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**Table 111.1
Minimum and Maximum Levels of Disinfectant (ppm)***

SWIMMING POOL: ***	Minimum
Chlorine	1.5
Chlorine with cyanurate compound	2.0
Bromine	2.5
SPA & WADING POOL: ***	Minimum
Chlorine	3.0
Chlorine with cyanurate compound	3.5
Bromine	4.0

- * Chlorine is measured as free available chlorine residual.
- ** Recirculating spray pools and sensory deprivation tanks shall meet spa and wading pool levels.
- *** The maximum disinfectant level shall conform with manufacturers' recommendations and shall not exceed 10 ppm for any pool.

**Table 111.2
Acceptable Ranges of Selected Chemical and Physical Water Quality Constituents**

CHEMICAL OR PHYSICAL CONSTITUENT	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
pH (Hydrogen ion)	7.2	8.0
Water clarity (safety)	Main drain and pool bottom visible at all times	-
Turbidity (shielding microorganisms T.U.)*	-	0.5
Cyanuric acid or its derivatives	0	90 ppm
Temperature**	-	104°F
Combined chlorine	-	50% of free chlorine
Ozone***	-	.05
Ionizers (Copper/Silver)	-	1.0/.05

- * In peak periods, turbidity may increase to 1.0 T.U. provided turbidity returns to 0.5 T.U. within a six-hour period following peak use. Turbidity is not a required routine analysis. The local health officer may require turbidity monitoring if special conditions warrant.
- ** A pool facility thermometer shall be provided when the water temperature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit.
- *** Atmospheric measurement.