



# NEWS SPLASH

Spring 2017

## Planning a Pool Party to Open the Apartment or Condo Pool this Summer?

Be sure to include safety topics at your event, like:

- Going over all of the pool rules.
- Having every adult tenant sign a copy of the pool rules, acknowledging they have read the rules and understand the oversight rules for pool users under the age of 18 (required by code to be completed annually and kept on file).
- Reviewing where the emergency phone, first aid kit, blanket, and CPR mask are located. Know what to do in an emergency.
- Reviewing where the life rings and shepherds hook are located and demonstrate how to properly use them for rescues.
- Reviewing “Stay nearby”. When infants, toddlers, and inexperienced young swimmers are in the water, adults should never be more than an arm’s length away from children who do not know how to swim when they are in the pool.
- If it’s possible, place a temporary height chart on the wall marking the heights of the shallow and deep end of the pool. This way people can walk up to the chart to see if the water is above their heads before getting into the pool.
- It’s good for children to know basic water safety in our Puget Sound area. Everyone should learn to float, tread water, and swim. Gather a list of places that offer swimming lessons in your area to provide to the adults and parents.

## Tips to Keep Your Pool Safe and Avoid Health Department Closure/Re-inspection Fees

Monitor the pool/spa throughout the day for water chemistry and water clarity. Record water chemistry and pool/spa closures in your maintenance log. Always self-close the pool and spa when the following conditions exist:

- Water clarity is poor, pool is cloudy and main drains or bottom of the pool is not clearly visible
- Main drains and suction outlet covers are broken, missing, or unsecure
- Filters, recirculation pumps, disinfection equipment, SVRS’s, gutters or skimmers a not operating
- Doors and gates are not self-closing/self-latching in non-lifeguarded pools
- No lifeguards or attendants present in lifeguarded facilities
- Manual shut off switch for the spa is missing or non-functioning
- Spa temperature is  $\geq 106^{\circ}\text{F}$
- If water quality exceeds the approved ranges found in the tables listed below

Post a sign at the pool/spa of the closure. Do not re-open the pool/spa until correction and repairs are completed.

## WAC 246-260-999 Appendix A-Water Quality Standards

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 (Optimum outdoor pools 30-50)	90 ppm
Temperature**		104 F
Combined chlorine		50% of free
Ozone***		0.05
Ionizers (Copper/Silver)		1.0/0.05

\*In peak periods, turbidity may increase to 1.0 T.U. provided 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.

### **Tips for Preparing for Seasonal Pool Openings**

- Due to our cold winter this year, be sure to check your pool surface, coping, and tile for cracks and damage. Repair damaged areas of the pool. Winter weather could have caused damage to decking as well. Remove any trip hazards caused by damaged decking.
- Clean out pump rooms; remove items stored in the pump rooms that are not associated with the pool. Never store fertilizer, gasoline, petroleum, oil based products or other non-compatible chemicals, gas powered pressure washers, lawn mowers, or other gas powered equipment in the pump room as this would cause a fire hazard!
- Repair any damaged equipment, leaking pumps and piping.
- Check the emergency phone to make sure it is operational before opening the pool.
- Check the pool barrier for compliance. Make sure all doors/gates are self-closing and latching.
- If your pool is older than 5 years, it's recommended to have the electrical grounding and bonding checked at the pool and pump room. There have been recent reports of operators and lifeguards having been shocked or electrocuted by faulting grounding and bonding due to age and corrosion.

### **Bought or Sold the Apartment, Condo, Fitness Club, or Pool Facility Complex?**

Notify the Health Department of any change of ownership, so permit renewals reach the new owners. To do so, download an application to operate a water recreation facility at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/environmental-health/healthy-communities/water-recreation/~media/depts/health/environmental-health/documents/water-recreation/application-operate-water-recreation-facility.ashx>

Complete the form. Check change of owner/change name (if applicable) within the permit information box. Remit form with \$25.00 to the Health Department.

### **Thinking of Demolishing a Pool or Spa?**

Prior to taking a pool/spa permanently out of service, contact your local building department to obtain information on how to permanently demolish and properly backfill the pool/spa. Notify the Health Department at 206-263-9566 or your pool inspector when the pool has been demolished. The Health Department is required to conduct an inspection and photo document that the pool/spa has been permanently removed from service.

### **Using Non-Chlorine Shock? Things You Should Know When Using Potassium Monopersulfate (MPS) or Non-Chlorine Shock**

- It does not kill pathogens
- It does not eliminate combined chlorine, it is not equivalent to super-chlorination or breakpoint chlorination
- Operator must still add chlorine based product to eliminate combined chlorine
- It can give false combined chlorine readings with the pool test kits. The test kit you use must be able to read combined chlorine when using Potassium Monopersulfate and the kit must measure Potassium Monopersulfate levels in the water
- Can increase total dissolved solids (TDS) and algae (because compound releases nitrate compounds in water). Can decrease alkalinity and pH
- Can dissipate slowly and build up in indoor pools

### **Online Portal Services**

Online Portal services are available to all owners/managers for the following:

Renew annual and not-in-use operating permits, review status of plan reviews, permit status, VGB main drain cover expiration dates, view and obtain copies of the pool/spa final pool data forms, provide VGB drain cover replacement information, make complaints on environmental conditions, and request refunds. Register for Portal access on line at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/environmental-health/portal.aspx>

### **Safety Vacuum Release System (SVR'S) Update**

Pool installers and suppliers have indicated that replacement Stingl SVRS devices/spare parts are increasingly difficult to obtain. If your facility has a non-operating Stingl that cannot be repaired or replaced, the pool/spa should be closed until repaired or replaced. If replacing a Stingl with a different manufacturer's SVRS (or changing to dual main drains), it is required to go through plan review with the Health Department. Plan review information can be found at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/environmental-health/healthy-communities/water-recreation/forms.aspx>

### **Certified Pool Operator Training Class Offerings Can Be Found at:**

<https://www.nspf.org/course-locations>