
2019 SPLASH NEWSLETTER

Help keep your pool safe, know when to close your pool

It is a daily requirement that the pool operator, owner, or manager check their facility prior to opening. Do not open your facility if the following conditions exist. And you must close the water recreation facility should any of the following conditions develop during operation:

- Water clarity is poor, pool is cloudy or main drains/bottom of pool are barely visible
- Water quality is outside the acceptable ranges listed in Tables 111.1 or 111.2 (on the second page)
- Broken, missing, or unsecure main drains or equalizer suction outlet covers
- Non-operating filters, recirculation pumps, disinfection equipment, SVRS's, gutters or skimmers
- Self-closing/self-latching doors or gates in non-lifeguarded pools don't close and latch
- No lifeguards or attendants present at lifeguarded facilities
- No responsible adult for children present at non-lifeguarded facilities
- Missing or non-functioning manual shut off switch for the spa
- Temperature is $\geq 106^{\circ}$

The closure includes securing the facility from users and posting a notification that the facility has been closed. Do not re-open the facility until corrections and repairs are completed.

Report all drownings, near drownings, serious injuries, and illness to the Health Department

Our goal together is to provide safe and healthy water recreational facilities for your users and guests. However, when drownings, near drownings, serious injuries, or illnesses occur at your facility, it must be reported to the Health Department within 48 hours of becoming aware of the incident. If a person seeks medical attention or goes to the emergency room, the injury is serious enough to report. A copy of the injury report form should be located in your Operations Manual. Report forms can also be downloaded from our webpage at www.kingcounty.gov/pools select Forms and Documents, then select injury report form.

Renovating, remodeling, and exchanging equipment at pool facilities requires Plan Review

Renovating, remodeling, and replacing equipment in an existing facility requires meeting current code standards and plan review with the Health Department. Most alterations require a pool professional and engineer to submit proposed changes. Changing pumps, filters, disinfection systems, chemical controllers, sometimes heaters, main drain covers, main drain sumps, and significant piping/valves of the pools system, may cause the system to no longer meet hydraulic code requirements and/or violate the Federal requirements under the Virginia Graeme Baker Act (VGB). Remodeling restrooms and showers requires plan review. Facilities cannot eliminate code required showers and restroom fixtures. Alterations to barrier configurations and construction material of the fencing requires a plan review. Pool plaster resurfacing requires the color to be white or light in color. The color chosen must have a light reflectance value of 70% or greater. Contact plan review to determine if the color you wish to select meets this requirement. You can contact the plan reviewers at 206-263-9566 for further plan review information on renovations, remodeling or replacing equipment.

Online portal services available

Online Portal services are available to all owners/property managers. Financial transactions over the portal does require a credit card. Register on line at: www.kingcounty.gov/health/portal

- Renew annual and not in use operating permits
- Review status of plan reviews and operating permit status
- Obtain VGB main drain cover expiration dates
- Submit VGB drain cover replacement information, must be submitted by the installer
- View and obtain copies of the pool/spa final pool data forms and updates
- Make a complaint about a pool or spa facility

Operating your pool equipment, pool operator training, and daily water quality logs

Health Inspectors have seen more sophisticated chemical controllers, feeders, variable speed (VS) pumps and variable frequency drives (VFD), Ultra Violet light treatment and other high-tech equipment being installed at many pool facilities. For health, safety, and economic reasons, maintaining complex expensive equipment is essential. Your operators must be properly trained to operate all of the equipment installed at your facility. Ensure pool installers are properly training your staff in the operation of new equipment. Make sure operators are following proper procedures in the equipment's and pool's operation and maintenance manuals.

Operators are also required to maintain daily water quality logs for each of your pools and spas, even if you hire a pool company to come in once or twice a week for water chemistry adjustments and maintenance.

- If your operators need certified pool operator (CPO) training, see list of certified pool operator training courses offered in Washington: www.nspf.org/course-locations
- If you wish your staff to have more advanced operator training, aquatic facility operator certification (AFO) courses are available: www.nrpa.org/certification/AFO.
- Download daily water quality log sheets for pools: <https://bit.ly/2WTVsxB> and for spas: <https://bit.ly/2M6R8Ku>.

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 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 levels 30-50 ppm)	
Temperature**		104 F
Ozone***		0.05
Ionizers (Copper/Silver)		1.0/0.05

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