2022 News Splash

For those receiving the newsletter via mail, see the newsletter on our website at www.kingcounty.gov/pools to access all the important links.

Summer is around the corner

- Ensure to renew all Public Health -Seattle & King County Water Recreational Facilities (WRF) operating permits. Permits are valid from June 1 of the purchase year to May 31 of the following year. All WRFs including Recreational Water Contact Facilities (RWCFs) regulated under Chapter 246-260 WAC and Chapter 246-262 WAC require an annual operating permit. To avoid late fees, payments are due by June 1st and must be received by June 10th. Payments received after June 10th accrue late fees.
    - Electronic permit renewal notices can be received and paid for online through the Environmental Health Portal system at Online Services Portal: purchase permits, file complaints and more. If registering for the online portal for the first time, click here First time users register here. To prevent registration problems, read all the tips before registering. Since you operate a water recreation facility, **only** register under the first bullet item titled "Register if you operate the following facilities or businesses permitted by Public Health - Seattle & King County:"
    - Check payments: All checks must identify the invoice# being paid on the check. It is even better to enclose a copy of the renewal invoice along with the check. Checks received with no invoice number referenced or copy of the renewal invoice returned with the check, are subject to be returned to sender. All invoices not paid due to returned check will accrue late fees until invoice numbers are identified with the payments.
- If the WRF was back filled prior to June 1, the facility need not obtain a WRF operating permit. WRF that will be back filled after June 1 will require an operating permit. Managers/Owners/Operator must contact their Health & Environmental Investigator to schedule a site visit at the completion of the back fill to officially document that the WRF was back filled. This documentation removes the facility from permitting requirements. Please contact our office at 206-263-9566 to obtain the designated Health & Environmental Investigator's name and phone number.
- For additional frequently asked WRF operating permit questions, please see **Frequently Asked Questions**.

Preparing the pool facility to open

Here are some helpful re-opening strategies.

- **Pool Enclosure Barriers**:
    - Ensure barriers are in proper condition and construction.
    - All gates and doors leading into the pool/spa enclosure must be self-closing and latching.
    - The latches must be at least 60" off the ground, or the gates/doors must require a key or code to enter, unless lifeguards are provided.
    - For more detailed information on barrier requirements: See Pool/Spa Barrier Enclosure Requirements
    - Drowning is a leading cause of injury and death for children. Proper barriers combined with constant supervision of children is required for pool safety.

- **Equipment**:
  - Ensure all equipment in the pump room is operational. It's important that operators know how to properly operate their pool equipment. Consult operational manuals, manufacturers, and pool professionals for assistance.
  - Recommend operators are Certified Pool Operators, see course offerings at CPO for Operators - Pool & Hot Tub Alliance
  - Use of the automatic chlorine/bromine feeder is required.
  - If chemical controllers are present, ensure interlocks are working properly with chemical feed equipment.
  - Alteration/modification of a facility or equipment requires PHSKC plan review and approval. Send questions regarding plan review, to KCPoolPlans@kingcounty.gov. Plan review is not required for routine maintenance or same make/model equipment replacement.
- **Emergency Equipment and Lifeguard Requirements**:
  - Facilities with an SVRS automatic emergency shut off switch (Stingl or Emotron) and alarm, the switch and alarm must be operational.
  - Manual emergency shut off switches and alarms must be operational.
  - Ensure emergency phones or call boxes are operational.
  - For non-lifeguarded facilities ensure emergency equipment is in place. This includes a 12-foot-long (min.) double crook reach pole, life ring with rope, a standard 16-unit first aid kit, and emergency blanket.
  - For lifeguarded facilities emergency equipment includes backboard, rescue tubes, a standard 16-unit first aid kit, and emergency blanket.
  - Lifeguard certifications must be current and up to date. Conduct and maintain records for all required in-service trainings.
- **Main Drain and Suction Outlet Covers:**
  - Replace damaged, missing, or expired drain covers. Update replaced drain covers on the PHSKC portal: Drain Cover Update Instructions
- **Signs – User Rules:**
  - Ensure pool/spa rule signs are posted. Sign requirement information and templates are available at Pool/Sign Rule Sign Templates
  - For facilities that do not have lifeguards: owners must notify the pool users on the conditions for use (pool/spa rules) before their first use of the facility and annually thereafter. This means that hotels, motels, apartments, condominiums, fraternities, sororities, homeowner associations and mobile home parks etc. are required to provide notifications to inform adults of the supervision requirements for pool users less than 18 years of age. For example, notifications can be provided with a copy of pool rules at the time of check in at a hotel/motel, during lease or membership signing/renewal. The notification needs to inform the users-
    - Children 12 years old or younger must be accompanied by a responsible adult that remains at the pool or pool deck at all times and is actively supervising.
    - 13 to 17 year olds are required to have at least one other person present at the pool.
- **Water Quality and Testing:**
  - Pool/spa water must meet regulatory standards when open. See water quality standard tables at bottom of newsletter. To assure compliance, water quality should be tested daily before the pool is opened – record results on the log sheets. Daily logs can be downloaded at Monitoring Logs.
    - Water must be tested for free & total chlorine or bromine, pH, alkalinity and cyanuric acid if trichlor disinfectant is used or if cyanuric acid is added to the water. Spa water temperature must also be tested.
    - Close the facility for unsafe conditions, including when water quality temporarily does not meet standards. Make necessary adjustments, retest, and when standards are met the pool can be reopened.
  - Check your test kit, expired reagents must be replaced.
    - Operators using Taylor test kits, can view water quality testing tutorials at Training Seminars - Taylor Technologies and Video Archive - Taylor Technologies for additional training. For other test kits, check YouTube for videos provided by the manufacturer.

- **Other Resources:**
    - The Centers for Disease Control provides information on body fluid and fecal contamination response: Contamination Response
    - Public Health Seattle & King County Water Recreation Facility Resources: www.kingcounty.gov/pools
    - Washington Department of Health Water Recreation Facility Resources: Water Recreation Safety | Washington State Department …

Expect continued chlorine, chemical and equipment shortages in 2022

Anticipate seeing chemical shortages again this summer in 2022. If the disinfectant system at your facility uses trichlor, you may want to secure a supply early for you summer pool season. Facilities changing to a different disinfectant feeder that uses a different disinfectant chemical, will require PHSKC plan review prior to installation. If adding UV is your plan, it can only be used as supplemental disinfection, and will also require PHSKC plan review prior to installation.

Safety of the operator is important when handling pool chemicals. Operators need to follow the manufacturer's operation instructions and only use disinfectant products that are approved for use in your feeder. Operators need to read the product labels for all pool chemicals they utilize including the product Safety Data Sheets (SDS). **Do not** use another disinfectant chemical product in a feeder where trichlor has been used. Using the wrong disinfection chemical in a feeder is extremely hazardous and dangerous, it can result in chemical fires, explosions, or toxic gases. For additional pool chemical safety, view the video at Pool Chemical Safety - Chlorine The Element of Surprise.

Check to see that pool equipment is in working order. Order any parts and replacement equipment as early, as some equipment is still in short supply. If replacing pumps, disinfection systems, controllers or filters, and the exact make and model are not the same as the existing equipment, contact PHSKC for plan review requirements before installation.

Report all drownings, non-fatal drownings, serious injuries, and illness to the Health Department

When drownings, non-fatal drownings, serious injuries, or illnesses occur at a facility, it must be reported to the Health Department. Owners/managers/operators MUST report any death, near-drowning or serious injury to Public Health - Seattle & King County within 48 hours (RCW 70.90 & WAC 246-260). A serious injury means someone has called for emergency aid (such as "911") and/or the person needs immediate medical treatment at a clinic or emergency room and/or is admitted to a hospital. Download the Injury Report Form at Injury Report Form or go to www.kingcounty.gov/pools, select Forms and Documents, and select injury report form.

Keeping your pool from going green

Algae can grow quickly in any pool or spa. Pools that are cloudy or green create visibility issues. Visibility issues increase the risk of drowning, even if the pool is closed. Someone in a cloudy or green pool cannot be seen. Untreated, stagnant (non-circulating) water in pools allows growth of algae, harmful bacteria and mosquito larvae. Once algae and other contaminants are present, they are difficult to remove. Algae can also damage circulation system equipment, which could lead to costly repairs. Restoring water clarity in pools with severe algae is extremely challenging and requires intensive management. We recommend consulting a pool professional for assistance. Prompt efforts to restore proper water quality and clarity will help prevent unintentional drownings and other hazards. If repairs or improved water clarity cannot be done in a timely manner, we recommend installing a safety cover meeting the ASTM standard F1346-91. See Take steps to prevent algae growth to help eliminate algae growth.

Conditions that require actions by your facility to keep your pool safe and avoid a closure plus reinspection by Public Health include:

- If water clarity or water quality is outside the free 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 in tables.)
- 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 fixed immediately or locked until it is working properly.
- If required lifeguards or attendants are not present, the facility must be closed.

Water Quality Tables

Table 111.1
Minimum and Maximum Levels of Disinfectant (ppm)* Quality Constituents

Swimming Pool ***	Minimum
Chlorine	1.5
Cyanurate Chlorine	2.0
Bromine	2.5
Spa & Wading Pool ****	**Minimum**
Chlorine	3.0
Cyanurate Chlorine	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

Chemical or Physical Constituent	Minimum	Maximum
pH	7.2	8.0
Water clarity (safety)	Main drain and pool bottom visible at all times	
Turbidity (T.U.)		0.5
Cyanuric acid or its derivatives*	0	90ppm
Temperature**	-	104˚F
Combined chlorine	-	50% of free chlorine
Ozone***	-	.05
Ionizers (Copper/Silver)	-	1.0/0.5

* 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

Public Health
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