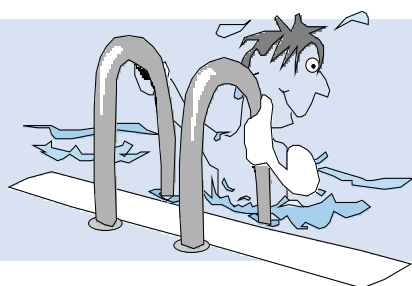


Plan Review Required for Changes, Additions and Renovations

Plan review is required for all new installations and most renovations, changes and additions. Renovations include changes in pool structure, mechanical equipment, piping, barriers, walking surfaces, steps, slides, diving boards, etc. Plan guides for pools, spas, wading and spray pools are available at the web site. For questions and forms call your local district plan reviewer listed in the "Who's Who" below.



Food and Facilities Who's Who

Section Manager, Food, Facilities and Living Environment

Mark Rowe
206-296-4632

Senior Technical Advisor, Water Recreation Program

Eileen Hennessy
206-296-4632

Geographical area: Seattle Downtown District Office
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1100
Seattle WA 98104

Supervisor, Todd Yerkes
206-296-4632

Water Recreation Plan Reviewer,
Patricia Ryan

Geographical area: North and East King County Northshore District

10808 NE 145th St.
Bothell, WA 98011

Supervisor, Dan Moran
206-296-9791

Water Recreation Plan Reviewer,
Phil Wyman

Geographical area: South County and Vashon Island Alder Square District
1404 Central Ave. S., Suite 101
Kent, WA 98032

Supervisor, Gale Yuen
206-296-4708

Water Recreation Plan Reviewer,
Patrick Murphy

Reporting Serious Illness or Injury.....

Owners must report all serious injuries that required emergency aid from "911" and/or the person needed immediate medical treatment at a clinic or emergency room and/or is admitted to a hospital. Complete the Injury Report Form and return it within 48 hours of the incident to:

Public Health – Seattle & King County

Environmental Health Division
2124 4th Avenue, 4th Floor
Seattle, Washington 98121



June 1, 2008 Deadline for Fence and Main Drain Modifications Pump and Main Drain Safety Shut Off Switches And Alarms Must Be Installed By June 1, 2008

Owners have one year to complete the changes necessary to conform to the new regulations for barriers (access to pools) and single main drains. The new Water Recreation Facilities Washington Administrative Code, Chapter 246-260 was passed by the State Board of Health in July, 2004 becoming effective October 31, 2004. There were two items within the new changes dealing with modifications for barrier and single main drains which the State Board of Health recognized as having economic impact for making these modifications. They wanted to provide time for all facilities to come into compliance. Facilities have until June 1, 2008 to make improvements on the items dealing with bringing barriers into full compliance with the new requirements and/or providing protection for single main drains at swimming, wading or recirculating spray pools.

For further details on these requirements go to the Washington State Department of Health web site <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/WaterRec/pubs-water-rec.htm> to view The Revised Water Recreation Administrative Code WAC 246-260, The Barrier Design Guidelines and The Single Main Drain Guidance Document.

Convert Single Suction Drains to Dual Drains At Renovation

Existing swimming and wading pools with single main drains must have emergency equipment to shut off all pumps with alarms installed by June 1, 2008.

Convert Single Suction Drains to Dual Drains At Renovation

Major remodel or renovation at the main drain will require conversion to dual main drains. Adding a second main drain with an approved anti-hair entrapment cover will significantly reduce the risk of evisceration/disembowelment, body suction entrapment, limb entrapment and hair entanglement. Remodel or renovation of the main drain will require plan review. Please contact Public Health for plan review information or find it on line at <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/pools>.

Maintenance At The Main Drain

When your main drain cover is loose, cracked, or missing, you must close the pool immediately until repairs are completed. Without an effective cover, the strong suction at the drain piping can hold and drown a swimmer on the bottom of the pool.

Your maintenance plan needs to include methods to assure the main drain is securely attached, free of cracks, and in good repair. Use your reach pole to check the cover on the main drain to make sure it is securely fastened. Maintenance plans should include close visual observation of the condition of the main drain cover to ensure it is not loose or only partially secured.



June 1, 2008 is the Deadline for Barriers Compliance

Existing barriers, including fences, windows, doors, gates and walls surrounding the pool enclosure must comply with the revised code by June 1, 2008. Check <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/WaterRec/pubs-water-rec.htm> for detailed pictures in the Water Recreation Code WAC 246-260, as well as additional guidance documents. These barrier upgrades will save lives by preventing unsupervised children from getting into pools and spas.

Barriers At Pools Not Continuously Life Guarded And Associated With Residential Units

- Door and gate latches must be continuously locked, coded or have another equivalent access control system that always require a key or code to enter the pool area when latches are placed below 60 inches above the ground. Fact: Fifty percent of children 7 ½ years old can reach a latch at a 60 inch height.
- Doors and gates are not required to be continuously locked when latches are placed 60 inches or more above the ground. Consult with your local building department before raising latches to assure latch height does not create conflicts with Building Codes or The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). ADA may not allow a latch raised above 48 inches.
- Pool and spas without continual lifeguards must have self closing, self latching doors and gates. Immediately repair self closing and latching mechanisms that are not working.
- Pools associated with residential units must replace or retrofit existing fences less than 5 feet high. Pool barriers previously grandfathered must be retrofitted or replaced by June 1, 2008.
- General use pools and private clubs must replace or retrofit existing fences less than 6 feet high.

Barriers At All Pools

- Existing fences, gates, doors, and windows entering into the pool must not allow a 4 inch sphere to pass through. Modifications must be completed prior to the June 1, 2008 deadline. Fact: 95 percent of children under the age of nine are able to get through a six inch opening in a fence.
- Chain link mesh size must not exceed 1 ¼ inch square. When the chain link exceeds 1 ¼ inch, slats must be provided to reduce mesh opening. Fact: Children can easily climb chain link fences where larger openings allow for hand and foot holds.
- The structural or designed horizontal members of the barrier must be more than 45 inches apart or otherwise designed to prevent creating a ladder effect allowing unauthorized access into the facility.

Disinfection Levels

Potential disease microbes continually enter your pool with every person, falling leaf, dust and even the air. Continual disinfection combined with proper overall maintenance inactivates most of these microbes, preventing diseases at your pool.

Maintaining minimum disinfection is the key to preventing most of these illnesses. Minimum disinfection means **never dropping** below the minimum level, even on the hottest, busiest day of the year. Additional pH and disinfectant testing may be necessary to assure safe water on your busiest days.

Minimum levels of chlorine and bromine are listed in the table below. The maximum levels for both chlorine and bromine are 10 parts per million (ppm).

All pools, SPAS, Wading Pools & Recirculating Spray Pool	Minimum	Maximum
	pH 7.2	pH 8.0
Swimming Pools	Minimum	
Chlorine	1.5 ppm	
Stabilized Chlorine with cyanurate compound (Includes Dichlor and Trichlor products)	2.0 ppm	
Bromine	2.5 ppm	
SPAS, Wading Pools & Recirculating Spray Pools	Minimum	
Chlorine	3.0 ppm	
Stabilized Chlorine with cyanurate compound (Includes Dichlor and Trichlor products)	3.5 ppm	
Bromine	4.0 ppm	

Note: Chlorine is measured as residual free chlorine.

What to do when Pool Contamination Does Occur

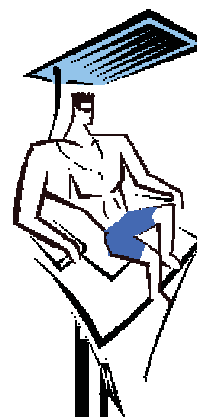
Develop a risk management plan for your facility which includes a response plan for fecal accidents as well as recreational water illness outbreaks. Most waterborne illnesses are preventable with the minimum levels of disinfectant combined with balanced chemistry in the pool. Fecal contamination requires more aggressive corrective action.

When you suspect your pool has been contaminated, you may call Public Health's technical support or your Public Health district office listed, to get up-to-date guidance for eliminating possible bacteria, viruses, parasites, and allergens from your pool.

If the pool is suspected as the source of an outbreak, support your Public Health inspectors in the investigation. The investigation can often reveal how or why illness was transmitted. This information leads to better illness prevention strategies that can help everyone.

For detailed disinfection guidelines, download the Environmental Health Directors Guidance Document for Pool Contamination Guidelines <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/pools>.

Private Club and General Use Lifeguard Requirements



The revised code has expanded the definition for substitution of lifeguards for general use pools at private clubs. Private clubs must provide lifeguards when persons 16 years or younger use the pool. Shallow water lifeguards or attendants may be allowed to substitute for lifeguards in private clubs with specified conditions. Private clubs are excluded from the lifeguard requirement when only adults are present.

General Use pools (pools with no associated residential living units) require lifeguards during all open hours.

Limited Use Pools Without Lifeguards Or Attendants Must Notify Users

Owners and managers of facilities that do not require and are not using lifeguards or attendants must notify responsible persons renting or using the water recreation facility about the conditions of use for all persons 17 years old and under.

Notification needs to be both at initial use and annually thereafter. All adults, 18 years and older, renting or using apartments, hotels, motels, RV camps or owners of condos, private clubs, and homeowners associations must be notified. Complete rules must also be posted at the pool. The minimum conditions of use for notification are

- Children age 12 and under need to be accompanied by a responsible adult (age 18 & over) at all times the child is at the pool.
- Bathers age 13-17 must not use the pool alone.
- Owners may also add additional information that will help the facility stay injury and disease free to the notification. Rules may be printed from <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/pools>.

Limited use pools (pools associated with apartments, condos, hotels, mobile homes and other living units) must comply with the General Use life guarding requirements when organized activities are provided such as swim lessons, or when the pool is used by people not specified under the limited use category.

Posters and Information from the Centers for Disease Control

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provides information for pool operators to raise awareness about the spread of recreational water illnesses. When swimmers practice "Healthy Swimming" behaviors, the risk of illness at your pool will be reduced. Visit the CDC web site for printable posters and information. Swimmers, parents, and operators working together create a safer swimming experience. <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/>

The CDC's Three "PLEAs" For All Swimmers

Practice these three "PLEAs" to stop germs from causing illness at the pool:

Please don't swim when you have diarrhea. This is especially important for kids in diapers. You can spread germs in the water and make other people sick.

Please don't swallow the pool water. In fact, avoid getting water in your mouth.

Please practice good hygiene. Take a shower before swimming and wash your hands after using the toilet or changing diapers. Germs on your body end up in the water.

The CDC's Three "PLEAs" For Parents Of Young Kids

Follow these three "PLEAs" to keep germs out of the pool and your community:

Please take your kids on bathroom breaks or check diapers often. Waiting to hear "I have to go" may mean that it's too late.

Please change diapers in a bathroom and not at poolside. Germs can spread to surfaces and objects in and around the pool and spread illness.

Please wash your child thoroughly (especially the rear end) with soap and water before swimming. Everyone has invisible amounts of fecal matter on their bottoms that end up in the pool.

Never Enough Time

By Larry French, Pool/Spa Inspector, Bothell

When doing pool/spa inspections, we inspectors constantly hear "I'm just not given enough time to maintain my pool and spa". As inspectors, we see this too frequently via missing water quality test logs, poor water quality or ineffective barriers. And for many club, apartment and condo maintenance staff, this is a real problem. Their job descriptions have them doing everything from getting units ready for rent/sale (painting, new fixtures, new floor covering), to landscaping maintenance (mowing, pruning, planting), to upkeep on the facility (exercise equipment, barriers, locker rooms).

So what has to happen? Facility managers and maintenance staff need to meet and agree on the importance of maintaining the pool and spa areas, and making it a priority in proportion to the risks to users and to the liability should accidents occur. Did you know that lawsuits stemming from accidents, injuries and deaths in the pool/spa area are second only to those from problems with fire suppression (faulty sprinkler system, inoperable smoke detector, empty fire extinguisher)? This makes it pretty clear that maintaining our pools and spas is critical work. It's worth remembering that with respect to pools and spas that "good time management" is "good public health".

The work that is done by the pool/spa maintenance staff can mean the difference between life and death for the users. We applaud your efforts and we are here to support you in taking quality time to keep the pools and spas safe.