



Swimming Pool and Spa Self-Inspection Checklist

The following is a list of routine items that are checked during an inspection of a public swimming pool or spa facility. It is intended to help ensure pools are sanitary, healthy, and safe. **NOTE:** This document does not list all public pool regulations and does not exempt operators or owners from regulatory responsibility. Check our website for more information Health.AlamedaCountyCA.gov/ACEHD

1. Water Chemistry

- Free-chlorine residual must be maintained between 1-10 ppm, bromine min. 2.0 ppm. If stabilizer (cyanuric acid) is used, chlorine residual must be maintained between 2–10 ppm. Spas, wading pools, and spray ground must be maintained between 3-10 ppm, bromine min. 4.0 ppm.
- pH must be between 7.2 - 7.8.
- Cyanuric acid (if used) must not exceed 100 ppm.
- A test kit (DPD type) capable of measuring the disinfectant residual (free chlorine), the pH, and, if used, cyanuric acid levels is required.

2. Water Clarity, Cleanliness and Pool Shell

- The water must be kept clean and clear.
- Bottom of pool must be visible from the deck (at max. depth).
- No slime and algae on sides or bottom of pool. No debris, floating scum, sputum, trash, or leaves, etc. in pool.
- The pool site must be kept clean and well maintained.
- Pool shell shall be lined with smooth and waterproof interior finish, no pitting, or cracks.

3. Safety Equipment

The following safety equipment must be provided:

- Life ring (min. 17-inches exterior diameter) with attached min. 3/16-inch diameter rope long enough to span the max. width of the pool.
- Rescue pole (12-foot min.) fixed length with permanently attached body hook. Pools that exceed 75 feet in length or 50 feet in width require a rescue pole and life ring on at least two opposing sides at central location.
- Provide lifeguard service and AED when a direct fee is charged.
- Pools with lifeguards on duty shall have the following additional safety equipment: Red Cross 10-person industrial First Aid Kit or equal, operating telephone, a backboard, and head immobilizer.

4. Signs

The following signs are required to be clearly posted:

- "POOL USER CAPACITY" of pool and spa (based on: Pool = 1 bather per 20 sq. ft.; Spa = 1 bather per 10 sq. ft.)
- "NO DIVING" - Required if pool water depth is 6 feet or less.
- "NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY" – Required if lifeguard service is not provided. The sign shall state, "Children should not use pool without adult supervision."
- Artificial respiration and CPR sign, which includes illustrations and procedures.
- Emergency telephone number 911.
- Number of nearest emergency services.
- Name and address of pool facility.
- Spa "CAUTION" sign.
- "NO USE OF POOL ALLOWED AFTER DARK" - Required if the pool and deck area lacks lighting.
- "KEEP GATE CLOSED" or "KEEP DOOR CLOSED" sign posted on the exterior side of gates and doors leading into pool enclosure.
- Diarrhea sign posted at entrance area.
- Equipment labeled properly.

5. Operation Records

- Daily testing and recordings of disinfectant residual (free chlorine) and pH levels at least once per day.
(Heavy use pools recommended hourly testing)
- If heated water, test daily (max. 104°F)
- If cyanuric acid is used, the concentration must be tested and recorded at least once a month.
- Records must be kept for two years.

6. Pool Enclosure

- Pool area enclosed with approved fencing and shall be designed and constructed so that it cannot be climbed by small children. No gaps exceeding 4-inches.
- Gates must be self-closing and self-latching.
- Pool enclosure must have at least one keyless exit.
- The gate opening hardware (handle) must be 42-44 inches above the deck or walkway.
- Minimum effective perpendicular height of 5 feet and

horizontal members shall be spaced at least 48".

7. Recirculation and Water Treatment Systems

- Pumps, filters, disinfectant and chemical feeders, gauges, recirculation systems, disinfection systems, and all parts of the water treatment system must be fully functional and operating while the pool is available for use.
- Flow meter must be installed and functioning properly.
- Sufficient water flow is required to ensure the minimum turnover times are met.
- Filter backwash wastewater must drain via an approved air gap to the sanitary sewer or in accordance with local regulations.
- Labeling direction of water flow.

8. Pool Lights

- Lighting is required if pool is open after dark.
- Light fixtures must be securely fastened and in good repair.
- GFCI must be labeled and tested.

9. Spas

- Water temperature must not exceed 104° F.
- Spa emergency shut off switch adjacent to the spa. This switch is to be clearly labeled.

10. Decking

- Decking must be in good repair, free of tripping hazards, and slope away from the pool.
- Pools must have at least 4 feet of unobstructed deck around the entire pool.
- Pool or spa covers may not be in place during hours of operation.
- Pool covers must be stored in a manner that provides an unobstructed deck around the pool.
- Standard Operating Procedure available for handling pool/spa surface covers.

11. Toilet and Shower Facilities

- Lavatories and showers must have hot and cold or tempered running water (100- 110°F).
- Toilet facilities must have toilet tissue, liquid handwashing soap, and paper towels or hot air blowers in permanently installed dispensing devices.
- Showers must have a soap dispenser (except deck showers).
- Waste receptacle in each toilet facility to maintain a clean and sanitary condition (min. one).
- Facilities must be kept clean and be well maintained.

12. Animals

- Animals shall not be permitted in the pool or ancillary facilities except as provided in Civil Code sections [54](#), [54.1](#), and [54.2](#).
[California Civil Code Section 54 \(public.law\)](#)

13. Anti-Entrapment Devices and Systems

- Main drains and equalizer line (suction outlets) must have approved covers that meet ANSI/APSP-16 performance standard and be installed as per the manufacturer's specifications. Check installation date to ensure drain covers are not expired.
- All suction drain covers must be approved, properly secured and removable only with tools.
- Every pool with a single main drain, that is not an unblockable drain, shall be equipped with a secondary device or system (i.e., safety vacuum release system, suction limiting vent system, gravity drain, auto pump shut-off, or other approved equally effective system).
- Safety Vacuum Release System ([SVRS](#)) must be tested.

14. Keys

- Pool and spa operators must assure ready access to public pool facilities for Environmental Health personnel to conduct routine inspections.

15. Plan Review

- Any construction, renovation or equipment change, or drain cover replacement must be reviewed and approved by Environmental Health Department.

