



TULARE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SWIMMING POOL AND SPA SELF-INSPECTION CHECKLIST

This checklist will help ensure pools are sanitary, healthy, and safe. Your pool must be closed if any of the following items in **RED** are not complied with.

NOTE: This document does not list all public pool regulations and does not exempt operators or owners from regulatory responsibility.

1. WATER CHEMISTRY

- ___ Free chlorine residual must be maintained between 1 and 10 ppm, bromine at min. 2.0 ppm. If stabilizer (cyanuric acid) is used, chlorine residual must be maintained between 2 and 10 ppm. Free chlorine at spas, wading pools, and spray ground must be maintained between 3 and 10 ppm, bromine at min. 4.0 ppm.
- ___ Cyanuric acid (if used) must not exceed 100 ppm.
- ___ Water pH must be between 7.2 and 7.8.
- ___ Water temperature must not exceed 104°F.
- ___ A DPD-type test kit capable of measuring the free chlorine, the pH, and, if used, cyanuric acid levels, is required.

2. WATER CLARITY AND CLEANLINESS

- ___ Bottom of the pool must be visible from the deck (at max. depth).
- ___ Water must be kept clean and clear.
- ___ No slime or algae is allowed on sides or bottom of pool. No debris, floating scum, sputum, trash, or leaves, etc., in pool.
- ___ Pool site must be kept clean and well maintained.

3. SAFETY EQUIPMENT

The following safety equipment must be provided:

- ___ Life ring (min. 17-inch exterior diameter) with attached min. 3/16-inch diameter rope long enough to span the max. width of the pool.
- ___ Rescue pole with a (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 a central location.
- ___ Pools with lifeguards on duty shall have the following additional safety equipment: Red Cross 10-person industrial First Aid Kit or its equal; an 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 under the age of 14 shall not use pool without a parent or adult guardian in attendance."
- ___ 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.
- ___ Spa "EMERGENCY SHUT-OFF SWITCH" sign.
- ___ "NO USE OF POOL ALLOWED AFTER DARK" – Required if the pool and deck area lacks lighting.
- ___ "KEEP 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 recording of disinfectant residual (free chlorine) and pH levels are required.
(Hourly testing is recommended for heavily used pools.)
- ___ If water is heated, test temperature 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 must be enclosed with approved fencing and shall be designed and constructed so that it cannot be climbed by small children. No gaps may exceed 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.

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.
- ___ An accurate and functional flow meter must be installed.
- ___ 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 sewer or in accordance with local regulations.

8. POOL LIGHTS

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

9. SPAS

- ___ Water temperature must not exceed 104°F.
- ___ A spa emergency shut-off switch must be installed adjacent to the spa. The switch must be clearly labeled.

10. DECKING

- ___ Pool or spa covers may not be in place during hours of operation.
- ___ 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 covers must be stored in a manner that provides an unobstructed deck around the pool.

11. TOILET AND SHOWER FACILITIES

- ___ Lavatories and showers must have hot and cold or tempered running water (max. 110°F).
- ___ For toilet facilities, toilet tissue, hand washing soap, and paper towels or hot-air blowers shall be provided in permanently installed dispensing devices.
- ___ Showers must have a soap dispenser (except deck showers).
- ___ Waste receptacle must be kept in each toilet facility, in clean and sanitary condition.
- ___ Facilities must be kept clean and 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.

13. ANTI-ENTRAPMENT DEVICES AND SYSTEMS

- ___ All suction drain covers must be approved, properly secured, and removable only with tools.
- ___ Main drains and equalizer line (suction outlets) must have approved covers that meet the ANSI/APSP-16 performance standard and be installed as per the manufacturer's specifications.
- ___ Every pool with a single main drain, which 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).

14. KEYS

- ___ Pool and spa operators must ensure ready access to public pool facilities for Environmental Health personnel to conduct routine inspections. Please provide a key or a lock box with combination to our office.

* = Code change or update, effective 9/1/12 for new construction, remodel, or replacement.

For questions, please contact TCEHD at
(559) 624-7400

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