



# 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.