



NEWS SPLASH

Pool Operating Permits

Every year in late April, if the weather hasn't started you thinking about your outdoor pool yet, we mail out your annual operating permit renewal forms to remind you. All pool operating permits are valid from June 1 to May 31. Renewals for all pool permits are mailed in late April.

- If you have a pool you are not going to use at all from June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017, it will need to have a "pool not in use" permit.
- If you demolish a pool prior to June 1, 2016, no permit renewal will be needed. Contact your Health Department investigator so they can make a site visit and obtain documentation of the demolished pool for our records.
- If you receive a "pool not in use" permit renewal form but you want to start using the pool again before May 31, 2017, do not pay the "pool not in use" permit. Contact us at 206-263-9566 and request to speak to a pool plan reviewer. We will assist you through the steps to get your "not in use" pool back into use.

More information is available online regarding "pool not in use" permits at <http://1.usa.gov/1Sz4nyh>

If you are just renewing your permit and don't need to make any changes regarding the type of permit or change of address or ownership, you can pay for your operating permit online at www.kingcounty.gov/health/portal

Understanding when you need to close your pool

Washington State Water Recreation Facility regulations require that owners shall close the facility when the pool or spa presents an unhealthful, unsafe or unsanitary condition. These conditions include lack of compliance with water quality or operational requirements (including WAC 246-260-111 and 131-see on other side). The regulations also specify that water quality parameters be checked frequently enough to maintain compliance with the requirements.

If your Environmental Health investigator finds that your pool or spa is operating outside these code requirements (see below), the investigator will close the facility. In many cases the investigator will later conduct a follow up inspection to confirm compliance. Those facilities that do not maintain a pool or spa in compliance with the requirements will cover the return inspection cost through reinspection fees. The charge for a reinspection is 50% of the operating permit.

Conditions that require actions on the part of the facility to avoid a closure and reinspection by Public Health include:

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

Promoting a Safer Summer Swimming Season

Unless your swimming pool, spa or wading pool is always lifeguarded, you are required to provide notifications to inform adults of the oversight requirements for pool users less than 18 years of age. You must provide the notification prior to first use of the pool and at least annually. 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.
- 13 to 17 year olds are required to have at least one other person present at the pool.

Depending on the type of facility, options include providing initial notification along with a copy of pool rules at the time of check in or during lease or membership signing. The steps you use to provide initial and ongoing notifications should be included in your pool operating manual.

Take advantage of the various swimming lesson opportunities for everyone to learn to swim. Little ones are very attracted to the water. And, you are never too old to learn.

Lightning doesn't occur frequently in our area but any occurrence presents a danger. Those with outdoor pools should recognize the threat of thunder storms early. When you see lightning or hear thunder, evacuate people from the pool and pool deck to safe areas immediately. Do not allow people to remain in the pool. It is recommended to wait at least 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder is heard once the thunderstorm has passed before resuming any swimming activities.

Washington state pool code does not prohibit the use of indoor pools when threatened by thunder storms. However, indoor pools should have their risk manager or safety professional make the determination if the pool should be evacuated and closed during lightning. The risk manager or safety professional should determine that the pool's grounding and bonding system meets the current electrical code requirements and is in proper condition. Some recommendations suggest conducting comprehensive indoor inspections on grounding and bonding every five years.

How to obtain information about your pool online

You can now check the status of your operating permit and any plan review online. You can also obtain a copy of your pool data form if you completed plan review for complying with the Washington and federal drain safety requirements.

1. Just go to www.kingcounty.gov/health/portal
2. Click on- View your most recent inspection results for plumbing, gas piping, backflow, pet businesses, pools and spas on the [permit status page](#).
3. Search and find your pool operating permit (starts with PR) or plan review (starts with SR) status.
4. Click on [Details](#) for more information. The PR permit [Details](#) include copies of the pool data forms.

246-260-999 Appendix A - Water Quality Standards

Table 111.1

Minimum and Maximum Levels of Disinfectant (ppm)*	
Swimming Pool***	Minimum
Chlorine	1.5
Chlorine with cyanurate compound	2.0
Bromine	2.5
Spa & Wading Pool***	Minimum**
Chlorine	3.0
Chlorine with cyanurate compound	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 Quality Constituents		
Chemical or Physical Constituent	Minimum	Maximum
pH (hydrogen ion)	7.2	8.0
Water Clarity (safety)	Main drain and pool bottom visible at all times	
Turbidity (shielding microorganisms T.U.)*		0.5
Cyanuric acid or its derivatives	0 (Optimum outdoor pools 30-50)	90 ppm
Temperature**		104 F
Combined chlorine		50% of free
Ozone***		0.05
Ionizers (Copper/Silver)		1.0/0.05

*In peak periods, turbidity may increase to 1.0 T.U. provided 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.