



Common 2007 Swimming Pool Problems

After opening the outdoor pools last summer, our staff discussed the most common reasons that swimming pools were not approved to open on their initial inspection. Please take a moment and double-check to ensure the following items are in compliance. If they are not, you will not be approved to open until the correction can be verified during a re-inspection by your sanitarian (additional fees will apply).

Emergency Phone Not Working - Check that your emergency telephone has a dial tone and is able to connect to 911. Although many people feel uncomfortable calling 911, this is a necessary part of ensuring this telephone is functioning. When calling, immediately inform the person on the line that "This is NOT an emergency", so that the dispatcher may take any other more serious calls. Additionally, ensure the person can hear you clearly and that they know your location. If your phone is not working, repair it, provide a new one, or if the line isn't clear, check with your phone company for damage to the line that may have been caused over the winter.

Safety Equipment Not Present – At a minimum, your swimming pool must have a 24-piece first aid kit meeting the Michigan pool code requirements, a kit to clean up blood spills, a spine board with an attached head immobilizer and a minimum of three ties, a twelve-foot rescue pole, a life ring with appropriate length of rope attached and a working emergency telephone. For more specific information on these items, please refer to the enclosed Safety Equipment Checklist.

Main Drain Covers Damaged or Not Secure – The two main drain covers in your spa or swimming pool must be in good condition and securely fastened with stainless steel screws to prevent the possibility that they become loose during the operating season. The best way to check for the security of these drains is prior to filling your pool for the season. If you've already filled your pool, you can check that the main drain covers are securely fastened by using a swimmer's mask or swimming goggles just below the surface of the water to get a clear view of the drain covers. If your main drain covers are damaged, they must be replaced prior to opening for the season.

Skimmers Not Functioning – To provide proper surface tension and skimming, you must have surge weirs (flap door or floating basket style), straining baskets and adjustable flow control devices in place at all skimmers. Check to see that these items are present and are moving freely. It is recommended that you have an extra set for replacement during the swimming season, as they can get removed or broken by bathers.

Pool Chemistry Not Balanced – Your swimming pool must fall within certain disinfectant and pH ranges to be acceptable for swimming. Use the following chart as a guideline. Automatic chlorinators and brominators must be present and functioning properly. Hand-feeding chemicals to a pool to maintain proper disinfectant level is not acceptable.

Appropriate Disinfectant Residuals		
Disinfectant	pH	pH
	7.2 to 7.5	More than 7.5 to 8.0
Bromine	2.0	2.0
Chlorine	1.0	2.0
Chlorinated cyanurate	2.0	4.0

Flow Rate Too Low – To ensure that your pool has the required 6-hour turnover of the water, the flow meter must be functioning to verify the gallons per minute going through the filtration system. To calculate the proper water flow through the circulation system for your pool, take the total number of gallons in the pool and divide by 360 (6 hours X 60 minutes); this formula will give you the "gallons per minute" that you should be achieving with your circulation system.

If you have any questions about these issues, or about any other items as you get ready for your swimming season, please contact the Washtenaw County Environmental Services Division at (734) 222-3800.