

These guidelines provide a list of basic, minimum conditions for public swimming pools and spas from a public health standpoint. They are not comprehensive or all-inclusive; many other health and safety standards are necessary for proper pool and spa operation. Compliance with the following precautions can help reduce the risk of illness and injury.

Disinfectant Levels

Free chlorine

- 2-4 mg/L (ppm) in spas and hot tubs
- 1-3 mg/L (ppm) in all other pools

Bromine

- 4-6 mg/L (ppm) in spas and hot tubs
- 2-5 mg/L (ppm) in all other pools

pH Values

- 7.2 – 7.8

Microbiological

Absence of coliform bacteria

Water Clarity

- 0.5 or less NTU
- Main drain grate readily visible from pool deck

Temperature

Bather preference, but not to exceed 104° F (40° C)

Cleanliness

Free from sediment, floating debris, visible dirt, algae

Equipment

- Kept in good repair
- Operated according to manufacturer's recommendations
- Drain grates secured in place

Safety Equipment

- Shepherd's hook
- Ring buoy with attached rope

Pool Rules

- Shower before entering
- No patron in diapers
- Diving restrictions

In the event of a fecal accident:

- Instruct pool users to exit the pool; close the pool (24 hour minimum closure) and remove as much fecal material as possible from the pool.
- Vacuum the pool and direct waste to sewer system and not through pool filtration system (disinfect vacuum before reuse).
- Raise free chlorine residual to 20.0 ppm with pH 7.2 – 7.5 and maintain overnight.
- Operate filtration system for 3 or 4 turnovers, then backwash.
- If spa, hot tub, or wading pool is contaminated, drain the pool at this point.
- Disinfect the filter tank and media with a 20:1 solution of sodium hypochlorite; (alternative: for diatomaceous earth or cartridge filters, replace media or cartridge element).
- Restart filtration system and neutralize any excessively high residual chlorine with sodium thiosulfate or allow to return to 5 ppm free chlorine.
- Balance pool water and reopen pool.

The Mississippi State Department of Health does not regulate swimming pools and spas. No permits are required. These *guidelines* are recommendations only; they are not requirements. They have been adapted from published information from other sources. Public Health Environmentalists at each county health department are also a referral source for recommended environmental health and sanitation practices.

For additional information on pool and spa operational guidelines, contact one of the following:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Center for Environmental Health
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

National Spa and Pool Institute
(NSPI)
2111 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314

National Swimming Pool Foundation
4775 Granby Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Eliminate drain suction hazards:

- Inspect pools daily to ensure drain covers are in good condition and securely attached.
- Do not operate shallow (less than 18 inches) pools with a single main drain suction outlet.
- Post a sign:
“WARNING — To prevent serious injury, do not allow children in swimming pool if drain cover is broken or missing.”



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Suggested Health and Safety Guidelines

