

Spring, 2002

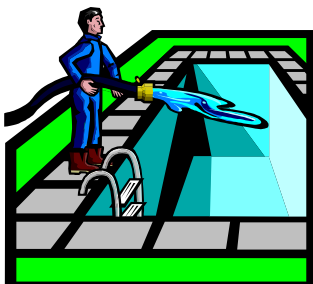
In The Swimming

Pool Season is Almost Here!

Spring has sprung, which means that summer will be here soon. The outdoor pools will be open before we know it! Here is a quick review of what you need to do to get your seasonal pool ready for opening:

- ☞ All violations noted on previous inspections must be corrected.
- ☞ A spring opening checklist should be reviewed and all equipment properly installed and tested to make sure everything is in good operating condition.
- ☞ The swimming pool and related facilities should be cleaned and in good condition.
- ☞ Any “new code” items that have not been corrected must be completed prior to opening.
- ☞ New chemicals and testing equipment should be purchased, if necessary, and the water checked for proper chemical balance.
- ☞ A bacteriological water sample should be collected and tested, and a “not detected” result received.
- ☞ **COMPLETE ALL OF THE ABOVE BEFORE CALLING FOR A PRE-OPENING INSPECTION!!!!**

Contact the Health Department at (517) 541-2615 to schedule your pre-opening inspection at least 3–5 days prior to the day you want to open.



Swimming Pool Code Highlights

The new swimming pool code went into effect last spring. All pool operators should have received a copy of the amended rules from MDEQ at that time. Here is a quick overview of important changes:

- ☞ New Marking Requirements—(1) If you have a pool in which the bottom slope changes from shallow to deep, the slope change or drop-off must be marked on the bottom and up the side walls with a stripe at least 1-2 inches wide in a contrasting color. (2) The edges of any underwater ledges protruding into the pool, underwater seats, and stairways must also be marked on the edges with a contrasting color. (3) If you have any underwater seating, the deck must also be marked to warn of the location of the seats. The only exception to marking the deck with regard to seats is in a spa; however, the seat edges in a spa must still be marked. (4) These marking changes need to be made prior to opening a seasonal pool this summer and by May of this year for year-round pools unless otherwise instructed.
- ☞ New Safety Equipment—(1) All backboards are required to have at least 3 ties, runners on the bottom, and a head immobilizer. (2) First aid kits shall contain the 24 items listed in the code as well as a blood spill kit. (3) A sign indicating emergency phone numbers and the pool/spa name and address must be posted by the poolside phone.
- ☞ Contingency and Emergency Response Plans—The owner of a pool/spa shall prepare and implement a contingency plan which outlines a program for “rapid mitigation of contamination or water quality deterioration,” such as when a fecal or vomitous accident occurs. An emergency response plan shall outline the following: rescues and submersions, equipment failure, injury requiring medical attention, and other conditions that create a hazard to the health and safety of the swimmers.

These new requirements are not grandfathered-in, and deficiencies must be corrected prior to opening for the 2002 season. If you have any questions, contact the Health Department at (517) 541-2615 or MDEQ at (517) 241-1353.

Change in Water Sampling Frequency

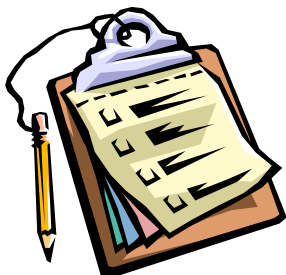


You asked for it ... we delivered!

Effective May 1, 2002, the water sampling frequency will be reduced for all pool/spa operators. Water samples will be required to be collected bi-monthly, or **EVERY OTHER WEEK**. The previous frequency was once per week, and you may continue to sample once per week if you wish. **If your facility received written approval for a reduced water sampling frequency in the past**, it will still be honored, and your sampling frequency will still be once per month. Please remember that if you use the MDEQ Lab., sample results are forwarded to the Health Department electronically and by mail; if you use any other Lab., you must submit a copy of your water results to the Health Department at 528 Beech Street, Charlotte, MI 48813. If a positive sample result is received, a follow-up sample must be taken immediately. If the follow-up sample is also positive, the pool/spa will need to be closed until a "not detected" result is received.



Monthly operation reports will need to reflect that the pool/spa chemistry is being checked at least once per day (twice is recommended). A copy of this report must be submitted to the Health Department within 10 days after the end of each month. If your pool/spa is closed for any reason, please indicate this on your monthly report. This requirement has not changed.








Close scrutiny will be paid to the two requirements discussed above. Periodic reminder letters will be sent to those not in compliance, and action may be taken against your license. Non-compliance with water sampling and report filing requirements will not be tolerated!

Troubleshooting

Most swimming pool problems are the result of one or more of the following:

1. No free chlorine available.
2. Poor water circulation.
3. Using improper test kits or reading them incorrectly.
4. Lack of proper maintenance.

Let's look at these issues and learn how to spot a problem before it becomes TROUBLE!

Problem	Corrective Steps
Pool water is ...	
 Cloudy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check for low flow rates. 2. Backwash filters. 3. If heavy bather load, super-chlorinate. 4. Check chemistry—if too high in pH, total alkalinity, or total dissolved solids, re-balance. 5. Use a clarifier or flocculant.
 Colored	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Green = heavy algae growth. Superchlorinate, brush the walls and floors towards the main drain, and backwash to waste. Add algacide after chlorine is below 5 ppm. 2. Pink, Reddish-Brown = high iron and manganese. Could be due to well water. Add a sequestering agent or chelator. 3. Yellow = mustard algae. Follow steps outlined for green algae. 4. Blue-green = low pH or dissolving copper. Raise pH and maintain at 7.2—7.8.
 Air bubbles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check suction side of pump for air leaks at hair and lint strainer lids and valves; check chemical injection. 2. Bleed air out of filter.
 Stains around inlets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adjust pH (too low or corrosive).
 Sand in pool	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Channeling in filter. Rake filter sand and eliminate clumps or replace sand. 2. Pressure may be too high when backwashing. 3. Possible broken laterals.

Are you getting credit for all your water samples?

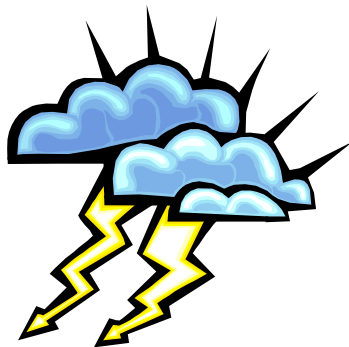
If you are using the MDEQ Water Laboratory, every time you submit a water sample for analysis, the "Request for Water Analysis" form must be filled out in its entirety and included with the sample. Incomplete forms may result in your sample not being tested. Here's some helpful suggestions to make sure you get proper credit for all samples collected:

- Use a soft lead pencil or waterproof ink.
- Complete all parts of the form which apply.
- Sample Source Code = 8 (see back of form).
- Sampling Purpose Code = 0 if routine sample; 2 if repeat sample (see back of form).
- Sample Point Code = 9 (see back of form).
- WSSN/Pool Serial Number = Facility's pool/spa serial number assigned to you by the MDEQ. Example: 23-0100-01 for pool/23-0100-02 for spa. **It is extremely important that all forms contain the pool/spa serial number for tracking purposes.**
- If this is a resample, enter the information requested in the proper location.
- Does the sample contain chlorine? = Yes.
- Report results and billing to: **PRINT** the name, address, and phone number of your facility.
- Sample collection information: **PRINT** the name of the collector, date of collection, time of collection, collector code = 3, collection site information, and sampling point = "pool" or "spa." **The sampling point is another extremely important piece of information used for tracking purposes.**
- Testing request information: **Test code** = SW; **Fee** = \$12.00; **Unit #** = 30.

A form is required for each sample submitted. Please review each form when finished to make sure it is correctly and entirely completed. Feel free to contact the Health Department at (517) 541-2615 or MDEQ at (517) 335-8184 if you ever have any questions.

Weather Emergencies: How to Protect Patrons from Lightning

When it comes to thunderstorms, aquatic facilities can be particularly vulnerable to lightning strikes, according to the National Weather Service. Thunderstorms are small but dangerous. Every thunderstorm produces lightning, which kills more people



each year than tornadoes. Of the estimated 100,000 thunderstorms that occur each year in the United States, only about 10 percent are classified as severe. The National Weather Service considers a thunderstorm severe if it produces hail at least 3/4-inch in diameter, wind 58 mph or higher, or tornadoes.

Lightening Awareness

Being out-of-doors is the most dangerous place to be during a lightening storm. When lightening is seen or thunder heard, or when dark clouds are observed, quickly move indoors or into a hard-topped vehicle and remain there until well after the lightening storm ends.

Listen to forecasts and warnings from your local National Weather Service Office and other sources. If lightening storms are forecast, have in mind an alternate plan to the day's activities or know where you can take cover quickly. The lightening "season" in the United States corresponds closely with summer vacation. The peak month for lightening casualties is July, with the Fourth of July holiday period being the most deadly.

Although any outdoor location represents risk during a lightening storm, certain locations are more vulnerable than others. These include: on or near the water, even just lying on the beach; near trees; on high places such as house roofs during construction; in open areas, such as a field; and near vehicles or planes. Outdoor locations where groups of people congregate, such as football fields, baseball diamonds and golf courses, are particularly dangerous. School children are vulnerable when at recess, baseball practice, and walking to and from school.

Outdoor Lightening Safety Rule

Go quickly inside a completely enclosed building, not a carport, open garage, covered patio, or near an open window.

Looking for More Ways to Keep Your Pool Safe?

Check out the following web sites:

www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming

www.poolcenter.com

www.deq.state.mi.us/dwr/eh/rrp.htm

How to Avoid Hearing the Words, "POOL CLOSED!"

The Health Department can close a pool/spa for any of the following reasons:

- ✘ A condition of the pool/spa equipment, structure, area, or enclosure jeopardizes the health or safety of the swimmers.
- ✘ The lack of properly functioning equipment or proper material for recirculating, treating, or testing the pool/spa water.
- ✘ The lack of supervisory personnel and/or lifeguards, where required.
- ✘ The presence of a pollutant or of a hazardous object or substance in the pool/spa.
- ✘ Failure to meet water quality standards.
- ✘ Failure to operate and maintain the pool/spa.
- ✘ Failure to comply with the terms and provisions of an order or schedule of compliance.

Here's what you need to do to make sure your pool/spa stays open:

- Comply with all requirements of the code.
- Maintain properly functioning equipment.
- Have an appropriate test kit and chemicals available and know how to use them.
- Make sure there is a lifeguard present, if required, or provide a "no lifeguard on duty" sign.
- Have a person who is qualified to monitor the pool/spa readily available on the property whenever the pool/spa is open.
- Close the pool/spa whenever there is a fecal or vomitous accident or whenever the water is contaminated in any way.
- Keep the water chemistry balanced, and superchlorinate or "shock" when necessary.
- Collect water samples at the prescribed frequency and submit monthly operation reports on schedule.

Barry-Eaton District Health Department

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