

Spring, 2003

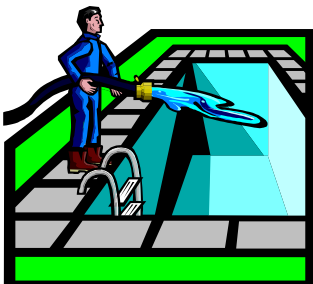
In The Swimming

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.
- ♻️ 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.



What's in your test kit?

It is time again to clean out your filter room and see if you can find your old test kit from years past. But once you find it, how do you know that it will work again this year? Here is a list of things that you should know about test kits in order to see if your old kit meets the code requirements:

- ♻️ **Physical Requirements**— Test kits must be durable under normal use and storage conditions. It must also be safe to use. If your kit is in poor condition, has any cracks, or the material is weathered, the kit needs to be replaced.
- ♻️ **Reading Requirements**—(1) The pH range must be from 6.8 to 8.0, at increments of 0.2. (2) Sanitizer readings (chlorine or bromine) must range from 0.0 to 5.0 mg/l or higher, readable to the nearest 0.5 mg/l. If your kit does not meet these minimum requirements, then an approved kit must be provided.
- ♻️ **Chemical Reagent Requirements**—A DPD test kit is required for measuring the sanitizer residual. All pools must have reagents to measure free chlorine, total chlorine and pH (the reagents used for free chlorine can also measure bromine). Other reagents may be needed to measure cyanuric acid (if using a stabilized chlorine—outdoor pools only), total alkalinity, calcium hardness, and total dissolved solids. *Pool test strips do not meet the requirements of a DPD test kit.*
- ♻️ **Storage**—Test kits and reagents must be stored in a cool, dry location in order to prevent deterioration. Reagents are to be replaced at least once per year, or more often if needed.

An approved and accurate test kit is a must for all pools. If your test kit is not accurate, then neither are your sample readings. In order to keep a safe water environment, update your kit as needed. If an unapproved kit is being used at your pool, your facility can be closed. So as you are cleaning out the filter room this spring, add your test kit to your list of spring cleaning items to address.

If you have any questions, contact the Health Department at (517) 541-2615.

Is your pool fully equipped?

Safety Equipment Requirements

Swimming pools should be fun, but they must also be safe. In order to provide a safe environment for your swimmers, your pools must have accessible and useful safety equipment. The following is a list of items that all pools must have located within the pool enclosure:



- A 24-unit first aid kit (refer to pool code for list).
- A blood spill kit.
- A long spineboard that has a minimum of 3 ties, runners, and a head immobilizer.
- A 1-piece, 12-foot long rescue pole with blunt ends and which may have a shepherd's crook. (spas are excluded)



- An 18-inch diameter ring buoy with a 1/4 inch diameter throwing rope as long as 1 1/2 times the maximum width of the pool. (spas are excluded)
- A lifeline, with floats and anchors in both sidewalls at water level, shall be provided at all pools at the change in floor slope where water is >5' or at the 5' depth if the slope does not change.
- A working telephone that can call 911. A sign must be posted by the phone with instructions for calling emergency personnel and the name and address of the swimming facility.



These items must be provided in the pool enclosure and must be stocked, in good repair, and in ready condition.



In addition to the above items, all pools and spas must mark the steps into a pool and any ledges or slope changes with a contrasting color.

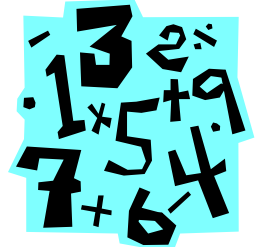


Depth markers that are 4-inch high legible numbers in contrasting colors must be provided at each end of the pool, at slope changes, and at the max. and min. depths. The words "No Diving" or a "no diving" symbol at least 4 inches high must be placed on the walkway where the depth is less than 5-feet.

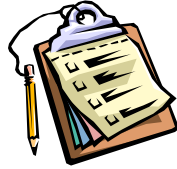
What is my Bather Capacity?

All swimming pools and spas are required to post their bather capacity, or bather load. But what does this number mean, and how is it calculated?

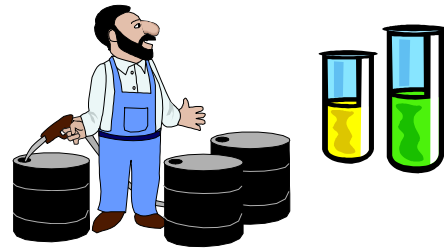
The bather load is based on the size of your pool, and is printed on your pool's construction permit. Finding this permit is not always easy, especially if you have an older facility. Here is what this number means, and how it is calculated:



Contingency Plans



Pool Chemicals



Health Department Changes








Eaton County—The Eaton County office mailing address is now 1033 Health Care Drive, Charlotte, MI 48813. The fax number at Eaton County has been changed to 517-541-2686.

Barry County— The Barry County office will be moving to a brand new building this May. The new office is at 330 W. Woodlawn, which is on the southwest corner of Woodlawn and Broadway in Hastings.



Surfin' the Net

Technology is advancing, and so should we. The internet has proved to be a very useful tool and can keep everyone up to date. There are several internet sites that can be of help to any pool manager. Below is a list of websites that may be a helpful resource.

-  <http://www.michigan.gov/deq> Want to know about the department that regulates public swimming pools? Once on this site you can choose *Water*, then *Water Quality Monitoring*, then *Public Swimming Pools*.
-  <http://www.cdc.gov> The Centers for Disease Control has an excellent site which contains information on several useful topics. Some *search topics* that can be looked for are *Swimming Pool Safety*, *Healthy Swimming*, and *Waterborne Diseases*, as well as many more.
-  <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5020a7.htm> Ever wonder where you can find the guidelines for how to respond to a fecal accident in your pool? They can be found here.
-  <http://www.nspf.com> This site is the home of the National Swimming Pool Foundation.
-  <http://www.nspi.org> This site is the home of the National Swimming Pool Institute.
-  <http://www.nsf.org> Need to know if your pool equipment is approved? Once you get to the home of the National Sanitation Foundation, go to *Product Certification*, then *Water*, then *Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs*.
-  <http://www.poolcenter.com> This site offers several great tips on all areas of pool use. Search the site for answers to all of your questions, and definitely look under *Pool Care*, then *Pool Care and Maintenance*.



Next time you are on the computer, surf some of these web sites. If you don't have a computer or Internet access, visit your local library and "check them out"!

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