

Spring, 2004

# In The Swimming

## Pool Season is Almost Here!

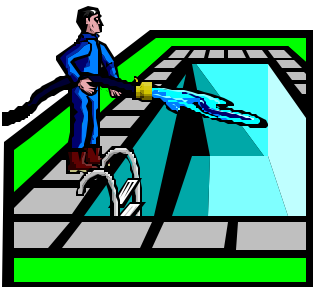


Spring has sprung, which means that summer will be here soon. The outdoor pools will be open before we know it! Here is a quick review of what you need to do to get your seasonal pool ready for opening:

- ☞ 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 and the water checked for proper chemical balance.
- ☞ A bacteriological water sample should be collected and tested, and a "not detected" result received.

☞ **PLEASE 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.



## 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.
- WSSN/Pool Serial Number = Facility's pool/spa serial number assigned to you by the MDEQ. Example: 23-0100-1 for pool/23-0100-2 for spa. **It is extremely important that all forms contain the pool/spa serial number for tracking purposes.**
- Does the sample contain chlorine? = Yes.
- Sample Source Code = 8
- Sampling Purpose Code = 0 if routine sample; 2 if repeat sample.
- Sample Point Code = 9
- 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.

## Stabilizer Facts



In outdoor pools, chlorine is quickly degraded by ultraviolet light from the sun. Cyanuric acid or isocyanuric acid is added to chlorines to prevent their rapid breakdown. Cyanuric acid is technically the chemical 2,4,6 trihydroxy-s-triazine, and frequently called “stabilizer.”



Stabilizer can be purchased separately and added as needed. However, stabilizer is most often added directly to chlorine. These types of chlorines are usually called DiChlor or TriChlor. Product labels usually refer to their compound as “stabilized chlorine.”



### Some important facts about stabilizers:



1. If you use stabilizer, you must have a test kit able to accurately test concentrations of cyanuric acid. You are required to test weekly and record on your monthly log sheet.
2. Ideal concentrations of cyanuric acid are between 30 and 50 mg/L. The legal limit is 80 mg/L, as per the Michigan Swimming Pool Regulations.
3. Cyanuric acid will build up in pool water. Excess cyanuric acid can cause cloudy water. There is only one way to reduce it or remove it: you must drain a portion or all of your pool water and refill with fresh water.
4. Never shock your pool with stabilized chlorine. The large amounts of chlorine will quickly result in excessive levels of cyanuric acid.
5. It is not recommended to use stabilized chlorine in an indoor pool. There is little or no ultraviolet light to cause degradation of the chlorine. It will also build rapidly because there is much less evaporation and refill of water in an indoor pool as compared to an outdoor pool. However, some indoor pools do use stabilized chlorine. If you are using it, make sure it is tested weekly and regulated to stay within the proper range.
6. Be sure to check your chlorine labels for the presence of stabilizer.



## Pool definitions that you need to know



Bather Capacity Limits—The number of persons in bathing apparel within a swimming pool enclosure. This includes people both in the water and on the deck. The bather load is to be posted at all pools and cannot be exceeded at any one time.



Operation Report—Monthly record of: swimming pool operation data; information about rescues, submersions and accidents; daily chemical readings; and general information regarding pool operation. The operation report is to be submitted to the Health Department within 10 days after the end of each month for review.



DPD Test Kit—Test kit needed for monitoring your pool chemicals. Checks for free and combined chlorines. Test strips are not a DPD kit and are not approved for pool monitoring.



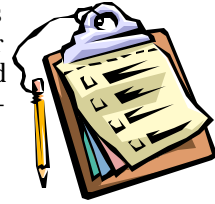
**Rule 97 states that “a swimming pool owner shall ensure that a qualified person who is responsible for testing the water and for operating the water treatment equipment of a swimming pool is readily available when the pool is open for use.”**

Qualified Person—A person who is familiar with swimming pool operation and who is authorized by the owner to operate the pool mechanical equipment, close the pool when necessary, test the pool water, and adjust the pool water chemical parameters.

Readily Available—In the pool enclosure, the mechanical equipment room, adjacent offices, other rooms adjacent to the pool enclosure, on the premises, or on-call within 15 minutes of travel time to the pool.

## Contingency Plans

Every swimming pool and spa operator is required to maintain a contingency plan, or emergency response plan. Your plan should already be in place. The plan must be available at all times the pool or spa is open. Make sure your plan is updated as needed and includes the following items:



- How to respond to water quality deterioration, such as unacceptable chemical readings.
- How to respond to a fecal or vomitus accident in your pool.
- Steps to be taken in the event of a pool or spa equipment failure.
- How your facility will respond to a swimmer submersion or rescue.
- How your facility will respond to a swimmer injury requiring medical attention.
- Any other responses to conditions that may create a hazard to the health and safety of your swimmers.
- **For a sample policy, go to [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq). Click on Water, then Water Quality Monitoring, then Public Swimming Pool Monitoring, then Suggested Practices for Pool Contamination.**

Remember that this plan should be specific to your establishment, since all facilities will have their own procedures that must be followed. Please have a copy of your plan available at your next inspection for review.



## Don't Forget!

- Water samples must be submitted at least every other week, or bi-monthly, unless you have been placed on reduced frequency. If you have had at least three consecutive months of satisfactory samples, all monthly operation reports have been submitted, and no major problems were noted on your last inspection, you may submit a written request to be placed on reduced frequency.
- Chlorine/bromine and pH must be checked at least twice daily and recorded on a monthly operation report form. A copy of this report is to be submitted to the Health Department (at the Charlotte office) at the end of every month.

Routine checks will be conducted by this department to insure that the above requirements are being met. Failure to submit water samples to a certified lab for testing or to submit monthly operation reports may lead to further enforcement action, which could lead to closure. By routinely sampling your pool water and conducting daily chemical checks, you will be able to ensure your swimmers that your water quality is safe.

## Pool Chemicals



	<b>Min.</b>	<b>Ideal</b>	<b>Max.</b>
Free Chlorine, ppm	1.0	1.0-3.0	5.0
Bromine, ppm	2.0	3.0-5.0	5.0
pH	7.2	7.4-7.6	7.8
Total Alkalinity, ppm			
Chlorine	60	80-100	180
Bromine	60	100-120	180
Calcium Hardness, ppm	150	200-400	500
Cyanuric Acid, ppm (outdoor pools only)	10	30-50	80

Several chemicals are needed to maintain your pool properly, and you want to make sure they are stored properly and handled with care. Here are a few chemical safety tips:

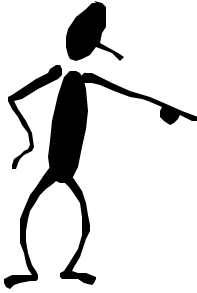
- Store chemicals in their original covered containers, with proper labeling.
- Store chemicals away from heat, flammables, and electrical equipment.
- Store in a clean, dry, and well-ventilated location.
- Store in a location which prevents accidental spillage or mixing with other non-pool chemicals.
- Always follow the instructions on the containers.
- NEVER add water to chemicals. Always add chemicals to water slowly.
- Properly dispose of chemical containers.
- Keep a copy of your MSDS sheets close by.

## Health Department Updates

**The Barry County office has moved to 330 W. Woodlawn Avenue in Hastings. Feel free to stop by and visit the new office!**



## Pool Supervision: Who's in charge of your pool?



All pools must be supervised. Does this mean that all pools must have a certified lifeguard? **No!** The only pools that require lifeguards at all times are those belonging to a school or government agency, those in which the total water surface is greater than 2,400 square feet, or those in which a diving board is present. If you are required to have a lifeguard, a copy of each lifeguard's certifications must be available at all times.

But there is more to supervision than having lifeguards. Pool owners need supervision to ensure that the following requirements are being met:

- All persons using the pool are taking a cleansing shower prior to entering the pool.
- No persons with infectious or communicable diseases, or possible infectious conditions, are using the pool.
- No street clothes are being worn in the pool, and bathing apparel is clean.
- No glass, breakable materials, or food is in the pool enclosure.
- No pets, other than trained guide dogs, are in the pool area.
- The bather capacity limits must not be exceeded at any one time.

Do you have someone watching your pool to ensure that these items are being monitored? Accidents can occur, as well as the spread of illness, if these precautions are not being taken. You are not required to have a pool monitor to sit at the pool all day to watch for these things, though routine checks of the pool area are needed. Also, make sure that your pool rules are posted and that they address all of these items. A little bit of supervision can help to make your pool safe and fun for all!

## Barry-Eaton District Health Department

James Schnackenberg, Health Officer

**Barry County**  
330 W. Woodlawn Ave.  
Hastings, MI 49058  
Phone: 269-945-9516  
Fax: 269-818-0237

**Eaton County**  
1033 Health Care Dr.  
Charlotte, MI 48813  
Phone: 517-541-2615  
Fax: 517-541-2686



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