



PRE-OPENING CHECKLIST FOR PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS

ALL PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS MUST COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING:

A. SAFETY

1. A Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) registered Automated External Defibrillator (AED) that is in good working order and include a sufficient supply of adult and infant pads with suitable expiration dates.
2. First Aid Kit Containing:
 - a. 1 roll adhesive tape
 - b. 5 - 4" gauze pads
 - c. 2 eye dressing packets
 - d. 1 box assorted size bandages
 - e. Scissors
 - f. Tweezers
 - g. CPR face mask (with one-way valve)
 - h. Disposable gloves
3. Bloodborne Pathogen Kit containing:
 - a. 1 pair of disposable gloves
 - b. 1 disposable cloth or paper towels
 - c. Disinfectant/sanitizer solution
4. Telephone — Must directly reach a 911 emergency service without the use of a coin and without connection to an internal switchboard. Posted at the phone are 911 emergency phone numbers with the name and location of the pool or spa facility. A cell phone will be acceptable if it is specifically dedicated for pool emergency use, is centrally located and available to all staff and patrons, and properly charged and operational. **"Emergency Telephones" must be programmed to call directly to 911.** These phones will be tested during the inspection. When the phone is activated, the Environmental Health Specialist will inform the dispatcher that this is a non-emergency test to prevent any dispatch of emergency personnel.
5. Two twin size blankets for emergency use only. Any blankets meeting this description are acceptable.
6. A backboard designed for medical emergency use, which is constructed of sound material, a minimum size of 72" long and 16" wide, and provided with quick release straps and a head immobilizer.
7. A pole not less than 12 feet in length and with blunted ends.

8. A rescue tube designed for lifesaving and that is in good repair. There must be one rescue tube available for each required lifeguard.
9. A test kit(s) capable of reading:
 - a. Free and combined chlorine on a scale from 0.0 to 10.0 ppm, total bromine on a scale from 0.0 and 10.0 ppm, or procedures for performing a dilution test to achieve readings up to 10.0 ppm. During the operating season the free chlorine level is required to be maintained between the range of 1.5 to 10.0 ppm. Indoor pools must test and record combined chlorine daily;
 - b. pH values in the range from 7.0 to 8.0;
 - c. alkalinity and EDTA (ethylenediamine-tetraacetate) hardness as milligrams per liter calcium carbonate; and
 - d. cyanuric acid from 0 to 80 ppm if cyanuric acid is used.

The test kit should include instructions for use. An adequate supply of reagents must be available on the premises.

10. A lockable emergency gate with a key, keypad, or cipher lock. You will be required to unlock and open the gate to pass the inspection.
11. Pool rules printed legibly on a backing of durable construction water resistant and conspicuously posted prohibiting patrons from:
 - a. Introducing dirt, excreta, foaming agents, soap and other extraneous matter into the water;
 - b. Bringing dangerous objects and material on the immediate premises;
 - c. Unsafe acts, both in and out of the water;
 - d. Entering the pool water if patrons exhibit signs of infection or otherwise shown to be a contamination risk;
 - e. Entering the pool water if patrons are not demonstrably Water-Safe or under the Immediate Supervision of a Water-Safe person;
 - f. Entering the pool water if patrons are incontinent unless such individuals are clothed in snugly fitting water-proof pants which are designed to prevent the introduction of fecal matter into the pool and are worn over any type of diaper, including swim diapers;
 - g. Swimming without a Ready-To-Rescue Lifeguard present on the deck of the Public Swimming Pool;
 - h. Bringing any animal, other than a registered service animal, onto the immediate premise or allowing any animal to enter the pool water; and
 - i. Possessing food and beverage on the pool deck in an area other than that established in Section VII(D). This requirement does not include plastic bottles of water brought by a patron for personal consumption.

12. In addition to pool rules, spa rules must include:

- a. Patrons are not permitted in the water for periods in excess of 15 minutes if the water temperature is between 98°F and 104°F. A minimum interval of five minutes must be spent out of the water for every 15 minutes in the water;
- b. Food is not permitted in the spa area;

- c. Children under 5 years of age are not permitted in the spa; and
 - d. Patrons that are pregnant, or have a history of heart disease, diabetes, or circulatory problems, should consult a physician before using the spa.
13. Handicap Access — Persons with mobility impairment must have access to the pool's edge and a means to enter and exit the pool for all indoor public swimming pools, outdoor pools built after February 10, 1997, and all Montgomery County owned or operated indoor and outdoor pools, except spas. The equipment must be properly installed and operational. Montgomery County will not certify any equipment for compliance with the 2010 U.S. Department of Justice ADA standards.
 14. A timing device, method, or procedure is located within the spa enclosure alerting the bather that a 15 minute interval has expired.
 15. Spa circulation pump and hydro jet pump disconnect switches are labeled and accessible to a patron.
 16. An automatic temperature limiting device which will prevent the introduction of water in excess of 88 degrees Fahrenheit for public pools and 104 degrees Fahrenheit for public spas.
 17. Spray pools/ interactive fountains must have:
 - a. posted on a separate sign "Recirculated system- Do Not Drink".
 - b. cleaned surfaces of interactive fountains prior to opening daily.

B. DECK & POOL

1. Deck and coping are in good repair and do not pose a tripping/injury hazard. The deck must drain properly.
2. Gutters, if applicable, must flow freely.
3. All skimmers are functional, adjustable, and all parts in good repair (including basket, weir, lid and flow adjusters).
4. All returns are adjustable, properly adjusted for uniform flow, and functional.
5. All cover plates and fittings must meet ANSI/NSF requirements, and be in good repair.
6. Main drain grates/suction outlet covers are securely in place, installed according to the manufacturer's instructions, and in good repair. **All covers are required to meet ANSI/ASME A112.19.8-2007.**
7. All underwater and area lights are properly installed and in good repair. For disconnected pool lights, a letter from a licensed electrician is required stating that the lights have been disconnected at the panel box.
8. Guard chairs (stationary & mobile), ladders, hand rails, diving stands and boards, slides, water recreation attractions, platforms, recessed steps, etc. are properly installed and in good repair.
9. A lifeline is a minimum of 1/2" in diameter in good repair and provided with floats spaced no more than 5' apart and is properly installed. Anchors must not protrude from the pool wall.
10. Depth markers are located on the pool deck and pool wall and are a minimum 4" high, a contrasting color, legible, and spaced at no more than 25' intervals and at no more than 2' increments of water depth. **New or replaced depth markers must include the depth increment in "feet" or "inches" or the abbreviated "Ft". or "In." New or remodeled wading pools are required to have depth markers.**
11. Hose bibs are functional and equipped with proper backflow protection.

12. Barriers, fences and gates are at the required height, are in good repair, and designed to control unauthorized access to the pool premises. A separate fence and gate must be provided around a wading pool. Gates must be provided with latches and hung to open away from the pool.
13. Covered waste containers are provided for patron use.
14. Foot sprays, if required, are functional and drain properly.
15. Vacuum port(s) cover(s) are properly installed when a pool vacuum is not in use, and are flush fitting on the pool wall. **The vacuum line valve must remain in the closed position when not in use.**
16. The fill spout is in good repair, operates properly, and is located immediately adjacent to a ladder, handrail or guard stand. Fill spouts must not present a tripping hazard. A fill spout must be provided with a flexible cover on the tip if the spout presents a potential for injury. If a clamp is used to secure the flexible cover, the clamp must be taped to prevent injury to the swimming pool patrons. In-line fill piping must be labeled and protected from backflow.
17. The required number of drinking fountains are functional and in good repair.
18. The interior surface of the pool is watertight, smooth and easily cleanable, light colored, slip-resistant, in good repair, and the roughness or irregularity does not cause injury or discomfort.
19. Pool steps, recessed steps and underwater benches are to be visually set apart by a contrasting color or colored tile nosing.
20. **"No Diving" signs are posted around shallow areas of the pool where the water depth is 5 feet or less.**
21. Owners/pool management company shall make staff aware of the dangers of overhead power lines.
22. The pool water must be of such clarity to inspect the pool surfaces, fixtures/covers, and to conduct a dye test.

C. FILTRATION AND DISINFECTION SYSTEM/EQUIPMENT

1. A backwash of filters or changing of cartridges in filters must be performed. The flow rate after backwashing must be between 100% of the minimum required rate of flow and the filter design capacity.
2. Filter(s) and cartridges, if applicable, are in good repair and are operated within the filter design capacity and the minimum required flow rate. Filters using cartridges are required to have a second complete set of replacement cartridges to maintain minimum required flow rate and a vat for soaking/cleaning these cartridges.
3. The filter backwash or cartridge filter cleaning procedure is posted. The valves and piping must be **permanently** numbered, labeled, or color-coded to match the cleaning or backwash procedure.
4. The pump is in good repair and **the on-off switch is clearly labeled**. Hair strainer baskets must be in good repair and properly sized. An alternate hair strainer basket is required, and must fit properly into the strainer pot. The pump must be grounded.
5. All influent, effluent, and vacuum pressure gauges are properly installed and functional.
6. The flow meter has a range to cover the minimum required flow rate and the filter design rate. The flow meter is the proper size for the piping, functional and appropriate for the system (at least 1.25 times the design rate). Note: Pools found to be operating with an altered/ modified flow meter will have the pool operating permit suspended until it is proven that the pool is able to operate as originally designed and approved.
7. The disinfectant delivery equipment is properly sized, clearly labeled, and functional. All chemicals are properly stored in containers which are in good repair, covered, and labeled.
8. A pool heater, if provided, has an automatic temperature limiting device and a thermometer properly installed on the return line.

9. The CO₂ feeder, acid feeder, sodium thiosulfate feeder, or UV system are properly installed and functional.
10. The equipment room is lockable, has adequate lighting (minimum 20 foot candles), is properly vented, clean, and has a waterproof floor that drains to a floor drain.
11. The backwash line has an approved air gap.
12. The recirculation system piping is properly supported. Air relief valves on filters are functional.
13. A sign is posted at the entrance of any chemical storage room stating, "Caution! Chemical Storage Area."
14. **A water-resistant data sheet is located in the equipment room for each pool or spa and includes: volume of water, minimum turnover rate, water surface area, length of water perimeter, maximum bather load, and operating instructions for valves and equipment, maximum filler capacity.**
15. Pools utilizing automatic controllers must calibrate and document this prior to pre-opening inspection.

D. BATHHOUSE

1. All plumbing fixtures are operational, in good repair, and provided with backflow protection.
2. The hot water is at least 90°F and below 115°F at the shower fixtures. An approved pressure balanced anti-scald device that limits the delivered water temperature to below 115°F is properly installed at each shower.
3. The bathhouse is clean. The floor must drain properly. Soap dispensers **that dispense liquid or powdered soap** must be provided at each shower, and sink. Toilet paper and holder must be provided at each toilet.
4. Lighting is adequate (minimum 15 footcandles).
5. Covered waste containers must be provided in both men's and women's bathhouses.

E. VIRGINIA GRAEME BAKER POOL AND SPA SAFETY ACT (VGB)

1. Skimmers with equalizer lines are required to be VGB compliant, including float valve assemblies (turtles) and check valves.
2. Main Drain covers are required to be VGB compliant:
 - a. Pump curve, hydraulic, or field tested calculations for the maximum suction outlet system flow rate must not exceed the manufacturer's approved maximum flow rate for the VGB compliant cover.
3. A pool or spa with a single suction outlet is required to have a Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS) that complies with ASME/ANSI A112.19.17 or ASTM F2387. **During the pre-opening inspection, the SVRS will be tested according to the manufacturer's instructions. These devices must be tested and recorded daily prior to opening the pool to patrons.**

Failure to comply will result in suspension of pool operating permit.

Refer to the routine inspection reports from the previous season for a listing of compliance items which must be completed prior to this year's pre-opening inspection.