3. All newly built public swimming pools or ones that are undergoing a major remodel shall be equipped with a split main drain. State law also requires spa pools to have recirculation outlets properly installed in duplicate or have safety covers that cannot be covered by any part of the body. Provide a detail of a hydraulically split main drain. See sample detail below for an approved split drain:

4. If there is a change in or addition to equipment include:
   ♦ Year pool was built.
   ♦ Make and model number of equipment.
   ♦ Size of suction and return lines.
   ♦ Any other information that pertains to the equipment installation.

5. Equipment and fittings that are replaced must from the approved list of the County of San Diego Environmental Health and/or approved by National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) or other nationally recognized standard.

6. For the installation of an approved safety vacuum release system, suction-limiting vent system, or an automatic pump shut off system, plans shall be submitted to show the proposed location of the device. Plans shall also be accompanied by the manufacturer’s product specifications. At the time of final inspection, the installation and proper functioning of the device is to be demonstrated to the inspector by the person(s) responsible to maintain the pool. The inspector will not perform tests on any of the above listed systems.

7. If there is an existing diving board provide top and side view dimensions of the pool. All swimming pools with diving boards will be reviewed for compliance with the current pool code and ordered removed if not in compliance regardless of when they were installed.

8. Check and repair or replace the pool lighting as needed.

9. If the pool deck, fencing, ancillary areas, toilet facilities and/or recirculation and treatment system components are to be changed or altered, then include these in the plan submittal for resurface.

10. Indoor/outdoor carpeting or similar products are not approved for swimming or spa pool decks. This Department must approve any deck material other than concrete.


Plans must be stamped approved by the Department of Environmental Health prior to commencing construction.

For a plan check inspection of work completed with approved plans, call (858) 505-6660. For renovations that involve plumbing modifications, such as split main drains, call for a preliminary inspection prior to backfilling or gunite. Plaster ring should be in place for the sump.

Plan Check final approval is required prior to reopening the pool and/or spa for use. Pool plan approval does not authorize the violation of any law, ordinance, or regulation and final approval is subject to the field inspection and evaluation.

Contact Us
Department of Environmental Health (DEH)
Information Specialist
(858) 505-6900
For plan check information or scheduling
(858) 505-6660
E-mail: plnchk@sdcounty.ca.gov

"Environmental and public health through leadership, partnership and science"
The purpose of this guideline is to provide information on the plan check requirements for the remodeling of a public swimming pool or spa.

Resurfacing any type of public or commercial pool, making modifications to pool equipment, or adding or replacing fencing or decking requires plan submittal and approval from the Department of Environmental, Plan Check Program prior to commencing work.

Making modifications to the pool shell or modifications to the recirculation system plumbing from the equipment room to the pool is a major renovation and is not covered here. Refer to the standard plan approval requirements for pools.

Current environmental health standards will apply to handrails at stairs, ladders and depth markers that are missing.

Submit three (3) sets of plans. This Department will retain one copy of the plans.

1. A plan approval fee is required. The fee will depend on the extent of the renovation.
2. The following information is required for the plan approval (when applicable):
   - Job Address - street number, city, and zip.
   - Owner's/Contractor's name, address, phone. The license number and type must be provided. Only a qualified individual is authorized to modify a public swimming pool.
   - Include pool/spa specifications: length, width and depths.
   - Describe the method of applications and materials to be used in the resurfacing process. A sample of the material with specifications may be requested.
   - Include a plan view drawing of pool, spa and/or wader showing return inlets, skimmers, fill line, main drain and all the location of all suction outlets.
   - Indicate all proposed work to be done to pool, spa and/or wader.
   - Indicate that existing tile line and/or depth markers will not be changed except for repair or replacement.
   - Provide coping detail if the pool coping is being replaced. Coping that is being replaced must extend over the pool wall 1 to 2 inches and not be thicker than 2½ inches.

For sample coping details, please refer to our website at:
www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/water/pdf/publications_coping.pdf

- Indicate the make and model of all proposed suction outlet covers. Provide supporting documentation showing that the anti-entrapment covers are listed to ASME/ANSI performance standard A112.19.8. Ensure that the appropriate sump is indicated for the proposed, listed suction outlet cover. To ensure that drain covers are properly sized for flow capacity, provide the pump(s) make and model on plans. See below for a sample detail of a field fabricated sump.

- Directional eyeball fittings must be affixed to all return inlets and indicate on plans. If existing returns are angled, note that on the plans.
- State the color of the pool. Pools shall be white throughout. A light pastel color is acceptable for spas.
- Indicate that horizontal surfaces will be non-slip and non-abrasive (i.e. shallow end of pool to a depth of 3 ½ feet, steps, spa bench and bottom).
- Pools with a depth greater than (5) five feet must have a straight line of slip-resistant tile, (4) four inches wide of contrasting color across the bottom of the pool where the water depth is 4 ½ feet. If not currently present, this tile line shall be added during the resurface. Unglazed tile is considered slip-resistant.
- Indicate that existing tile line and/or depth markers will not be changed except for repair or replacement.
- Provide coping detail if the pool coping is being replaced. Coping that is being replaced must extend over the pool wall 1 to 2 inches and not be thicker than 2½ inches.

For sample coping details, please refer to our website at:
www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/water/pdf/publications_coping.pdf