

## The Law

*The laws cited below are excerpts from the California Health & Safety Code.*

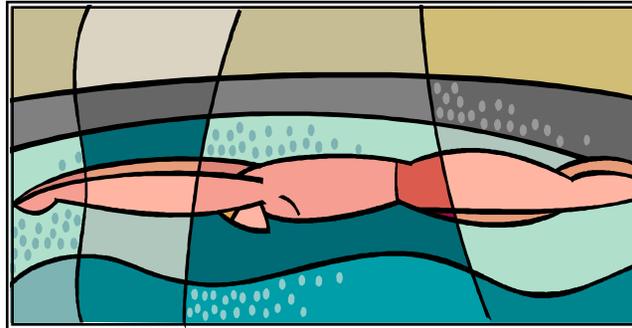
-  Every person operating or maintaining a public swimming pool must do so in a sanitary, healthful and safe manner. (116040)
-  Every public pool shall be under the supervision of a pool operator. The pool operator shall maintain pool operating procedures at the public pool site for use by the pool operator and for inspection by the enforcing agent. The pool operator shall maintain manufacturers' instructions for the operation and maintenance for all mechanical and electrical equipment and water treatment systems at the public pool site for use by the pool operator and for inspection by the enforcing agent. (65521)
-  The pool operator shall maintain a written daily record of all test results, equipment readings, calibrations, and corrective action taken at the public pool site. (65523a)
-  The pool operator shall maintain data and records collected for at least two years for inspection by the enforcing agent and shall submit all data and records to the enforcing agent upon the agent's request. (65523f)
-  ... any health officer, or any inspector of the department, may at all reasonable times enter all parts of the premises of a public swimming pool to make examination and investigation to determine the sanitary condition and whether this article, building standards published in the State Building Standards Code relating to swimming pools, or the other regulations adopted by the department pursuant to this article are being violated. (116055)
-  A public pool that is maintained or operated in a manner that creates an unhealthful, unsafe, or unsanitary condition may be closed by the enforcing agent... A public pool shall not be reopened until the unhealthful, unsafe, or unsanitary condition has been rectified and upon specific written approval from the enforcing agent. (65545a)
-  Unhealthful, unsafe, or unsanitary conditions include, but are not limited to, failure to maintain clean pool water and clear pool water requirements; inadequate disinfection; improper pH; the presence of inhalation hazards; failure to meet microbiological or chemical water-quality standards; missing or broken suction outlet covers; missing or broken pool enclosures, including fencing and gates; hazards to pool users; and any other violation of these regulations identified by the enforcing agent. (65545a)

## Stay Connected!

If you are interested in joining our pool safety email list group, go to:

[www.sdcdeh.org](http://www.sdcdeh.org)

Click on "e-mail updates" and enter a contact email address. Check the box for "Swimming Pool Safety".



## Important Contact Information

(858) 505-6659 Plan Check  
(858) 505-6814 Suspect Waterborne Illness  
(858) 505-6900 Duty Specialist  
(858) 505-6903 Complaint Desk  
(858) 505-6998 Fax  
E-mail: [fhduyeh@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:fhduyeh@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
Website: [www.sdcdeh.org](http://www.sdcdeh.org)

## County of San Diego

Department of Environmental Health  
Food and Housing Division  
5500 Overland Avenue Suite 170 San Diego CA 92123  
(858) 505-6900 (800) 253-9933



## Swimming Pool Safety



## County of San Diego

Department of Environmental Health  
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# Pool Maintenance: Risk Factors

~Preventing conditions that can lead to injury, illness, or death~



## Drain Covers

Check to make sure that all drain covers are securely installed and are not damaged. If screws are missing, the grate is cracked, or the cover can be moved – **CLOSE** the pool and replace with an ANSI/ASME approved cover to prevent suction entrapment.



## Water Chemistry

Test the water on a daily basis for free chlorine and pH with a DPD test kit and record the results in a log. If the chemical values exceed the limits outside of the approved ranges – **CLOSE** the pool and adjust with the appropriate chemical to prevent bather illness and damage to pool equipment. If chemical adjustments are made, document on the pool log.

Chemical test	Pool	Spa, Wader, or Spray Feature
Recommended free chlorine level (ppm)	2.0 - 4.0	3.0 - 5.0
pH	7.2 - 7.8	7.2 - 7.8
Unstabilized free chlorine (ppm)	1.0 - 10.0	3.0 - 10.0
Stabilized free chlorine (ppm)	2.0 - 10.0	3.0 - 10.0
Bromine (ppm)	2.0 minimum	4.0 minimum



## Recirculation

Check to see that the recirculation system is on during all operating hours. If the pumps or filters are found to be in disrepair or the system is not on during the open hours of the pool – **CLOSE** the pool until the system is repaired and running correctly to prevent poor water quality.



## Disinfection

Do a daily check to ensure that the automatic chlorinator is functioning correctly and is turned on during the hours of operation. If the chlorinator is turned off, in disrepair, or missing – **CLOSE** the pool until the chlorinator is operating as approved to prevent bather illness.



## Pool Enclosure

Test the pool gates daily to ensure that they latch and close on their own. Survey the pool fencing to look for gaps greater than 4 inches and a fence height of at least 5 feet. If the pool gates or fencing are broken – **CLOSE** the pool and secure the area until the issue has been corrected.



## Water Clarity

Check to see if the bottom of the pool, at its maximum depth, is clearly visible. If the bottom of the pool, at its maximum depth, is not clearly visible from the deck – **CLOSE** the pool until the water clarity has been corrected to a clean and clear condition and water chemistry is adequate.



## Chemical Storage

Look to see if pool chemicals are protected from the weather and are in a secure location. Ensure that liquids are not stored near solids and acids are not stored near bases. If these conditions are found to exist and there is a presence of inhalation hazards – **CLOSE** the pool until corrected to prevent fire or injury to bathers.



## General Hazards

Look for immediate health hazards. If any of the following health hazards are observed – **CLOSE** the pool until the issue is corrected. *Examples: Broken pool light, water temperature above 104°F, no lifesaving equipment, fecal accident, glass in pool, severely damaged pool structure, or any other hazard that could immediately cause danger to the bathers.*

# Interventions

## Record Keeping

Maintaining daily records can help track a pattern of compliance and alert you when adjustments need to be made to the pool.

## Demonstration of Knowledge

A Certified Pool Operator (CPO) or other pool education class is highly recommended for pool operators. Studies have shown that pool education classes reduce the risks that contribute to illness and injury.

## Maintenance Review

It is essential to maintain the equipment and facilities in good repair. A well maintained pump room will aid in keeping your pool functioning in a healthy and safe condition.

## Operational Review

Maintaining written procedures will help all staff consistently and correctly respond to both daily pool operations and when issues do arise.

## Responsible Person (RP)

Each facility needs to have at least one RP who will be responsible for the compliance of all pool operation, maintenance, and the safety of bathers. The contact information for the RP should be made available for contact in case pool issues or emergencies occur.

