



**County of San Diego**  
Department of Environmental Health  
Food and Housing Division  
[www.sdcdeh.org](http://www.sdcdeh.org)

## PUBLIC POOL SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS

Effective September 1<sup>st</sup> 2012, the California Building Code, CCR Title 24 updated the minimum standards for the design and construction of public swimming pools.

Signage requirements will be applied as signs are replaced or any work is conducted on the pool.

When the deck or coping at the pools are renovated or replaced the following new deck tiles will be required.

**No diving markers.** For pool water depths 6 feet and shallower, no diving markers with the universal symbol of no diving, which is a red circle with a slash through it superimposed over the image of a diver, shall be installed on the deck directly adjacent to the depth markers.



**Signage Requirements:** Signage in the pool area for existing and new pools shall have clearly legible letters or numbers not less than 4 inches high, unless otherwise required. Some of the new signage requirements are as follows.

**No use after dark.** Where pools were constructed for which lighting was not required, a sign shall be posted at each pool entrance on the outside of the gate(s) stating, *"NO USE OF POOL ALLOWED AFTER DARK."*

**Keep closed.** A sign shall be posted on the exterior side of gates and doors leading into the pool enclosure area stating, *"KEEP CLOSED."* This signage may be modified to *"KEEP GATE/DOOR CLOSED"* as appropriate.

**Diarrhea.** A sign in letters at least 1 inch (25 mm) high and in a language or diagram that is clearly stated shall be posted at the entrance area visible from the gates of a public pool which states that persons having currently active diarrhea or who have had active diarrhea within the previous 14 days shall not be allowed to enter the pool water.

**Emergency sign.** The emergency telephone number 9-1-1, the number of the nearest emergency services and the name and street address of the pool facility shall be posted.

**Artificial respiration and CPR sign.** An illustrated diagram with text at least ¼ inch (6 mm) high of artificial respiration and CPR procedures shall be posted.

**Emergency shut off.** In letters at least one inch (25mm) high a sign shall be posted at the spa emergency shut off switch stating, *"EMERGENCY SHUT OFF SWITCH."*

**No lifeguard sign.** Where no lifeguard service is provided, a warning sign shall be posted stating, *"WARNING: NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY."* The sign also shall state in letters at least 1 inch (25 mm) high, "Children under the age of 14 shall not use pool without a parent or adult guardian in attendance."

**No diving sign.** Signs shall be posted in conspicuous places and shall state, “NO DIVING” at pools with a maximum water depth of 6 feet or less.

**Warning sign for a spa pool.** A warning sign for spa pools shall be posted stating, “CAUTION” and shall include the following language in letters at least 1 inch (25 mm) high:

1. *Elderly persons, pregnant women, infants and those with health conditions requiring medical care should consult with a physician before entering the spa.*
2. *Unsupervised use by children under the age of 14 is prohibited.*
3. *Hot water immersion while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, drugs or medicines may lead to serious consequences and is not recommended.*
4. *Do not use alone.*
5. *Long exposure may result in hyperthermia, nausea, dizziness or fainting.*

**Pool user capacity sign.** A sign shall indicate the maximum number of pool users permitted for each pool.

**Spa pool.** The pool user capacity of a spa pool shall be based on one pool user for every 10 square feet of pool water surface area.

**Other pools.** The pool user capacity for all other pools shall be based on one pool user for every 20 square feet (1.858 m<sup>2</sup>) of pool water surface area.

**Exception:** Pool user capacity requirements do not apply to wading pools or spray grounds.

**Direction of flow.** The direction of flow for the recirculation equipment shall be labeled clearly with directional symbols such as arrows on all piping in the equipment area.



Where the recirculation equipment for more than one pool is located on site, the equipment shall be marked as to which pool the system serves. Valves and plumbing lines shall be labeled clearly with the source or destination descriptions.

Additional signage requirements:

**For spray grounds/splash pads.** A sign shall be posted at each spray ground and be visible from any part of the spray ground that states, “CAUTION: WATER IS RECIRCULATED. DO NOT DRINK.”

**Wave pools.** A sign in letters at least 1 inch (25 mm) high shall be posted that describes the requirements for wave pools.

Signage asking pool users to shower before entering is recommended.

**Plan Check:** The Plan Check and Construction unit is responsible for reviewing the plans of new public pool facilities and existing pool facilities that are being remodeled or renovated. Plan Check is available at [plnchk@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:plnchk@sdcountry.ca.gov) or at 858-505-6659.