NEWSPLASH

DHEC Swimming Pool Contact Information

Anderson and Oconee Counties
220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 260-5585
Fax: (864) 222-3923

Greenville and Pickens Counties
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29601
Phone: (864) 372-3273
Fax: (864) 282-4371

Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union Counties
151 East Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29303
Phone: (864) 596-3327
Fax: (864) 596-3920

Lancaster, Chester and York Counties
2475 DHEC Road
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: (803) 285-7461
Fax: (803) 285-5594

Fairfield, Lexington, Richland and Newberry Counties
8500 Farrow Road Bldg. 12
Columbia, SC 29203
Phone: (803) 896-0620
Fax: (803) 896-0617

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties
104 Parker Drive
Beaufort, SC 29906
Phone: (843) 846-1030
Fax: (843) 846-0604

Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Edgefield, Orangeburg and Saluda Counties
206 Beaufort Street, NE
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1637
Fax: (803) 643-4027

Florence, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Marion, and Marlboro Counties
145 East Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4825
Fax: (843) 661-4858

Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester Counties
1362 McMillan Avenue,
Suite 300, Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 953-0150
Fax: (843) 953-0151

Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens and McCormick Counties
1736 South Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: (864) 227-5915
Fax: (864) 942-3680

Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg Counties
927 Shine Avenue
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (843) 238-4378
Fax: (843) 238-4518

Sumter, Clarendon, Kershaw and Lee Counties
105 N. Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 778-6548
Fax: (803) 934-2938

Central (Columbia) Office:
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

- Compliance
  Phone: (803) 898-4255

- Permitting
  Phone: (803) 898-4300

- Fee Payment
  Phone: (803) 898-3460

Public Swimming Pool Inspections

Routine Inspections

DHEC's goal for the 2019 Spring and Summer pool season is to conduct at least **two** routine inspections on every active public swimming pool in South Carolina. Preseason inspections are available upon request to the local regional office prior to May 15th and are encouraged. However, the Department does not require a preseason inspection prior to opening for the season. A preseason inspection may help facilities become aware of non-compliant conditions prior to opening for the season, and could save them time and effort during the heat of the summer when the pool is most often used. After a Department inspection of a public swimming pool, an inspection summary will be left behind on-site notifying the facility of the deficiencies. If there is an email address on file with the Department an electronic copy of the inspection will also be sent. Please be aware that there are **two** categories on public swimming pool inspections: Non-Closure Items and Immediate Closure Items. Both categories are important and must be maintained in compliance with the S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-51. If any inspection item is marked as non-compliant on consecutive inspections, the Department may require that public swimming pool to remain closed until the deficiencies are corrected. All inspection items on the inspection reports are important and need to be maintained in compliance to ensure the safety of patrons and pool staff.

dhec — **Swimming Pool Inspection Summary Bureau Of Water**

Date: ___/___/___ Permit No. ___-___-___ Pool Type: ____ Time: _____ Facility: _____

- [ ] 3. First Aid Kit
- [ ] 4. Life Line
- [ ] 5. Depth Marker Tiles
- [ ] 6. Ladder/Handrail
- [ ] 7. Pool Clean/Algae
- [ ] 8. Deck Clear of Hazards
- [ ] 9. Skimmers
- [ ] 10. Diving Board
- [ ] 11. Bathroom
- [ ] 12. Water Fountain/Foot Rinse
- [ ] 13. Other
- [ ] 14. Perimeter Fencing/Gate
- [ ] 15. Previous Item Uncorrected
- [ ] 16. Chlorine/Bromine
- [ ] 17. pH Level
- [ ] 18. Cyanuric Acid
- [ ] 19. Main Drains
- [ ] 20. Life Ring
- [ ] 21. Shepherd's Crook
- [ ] 22. Life Guards
- [ ] 23. Rescue Tubes
- [ ] 24. Blanket/Backboard/Collar
- [ ] 25. Telephone
- [ ] 26. Spa Temperature
- [ ] 27. Pool/Spa Rules
- [ ] 28. Shallow Water Signs
- [ ] 29. No Lifeguard Signs
- [ ] 30. Pool Operator Sign
- [ ] 31. Bound Log Book
- [ ] 32. Disinfection Equipment
- [ ] 33. Recirculation System
- [ ] 34. Automatic Controller

Comments: _____

Reopen When Corrections Made

Call _____-_____-_____ For Reinspection Prior to Reopening

DHEC Inspector: _____ Facility Representative: _____

DHEC 1857 (11/2016)   **SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**

Information

Drinking Water Fountains and Foot Rinse Showers

Drinking water fountains and foot rinse showers are some of the most common items found to be non-compliant during the first inspection of the year. This is often due to the fact that the water was not turned on to these amenities yet or sometimes it can be due to burst pipes from freezing winter conditions. Please take the time to check both your drinking water fountain and foot rinse shower before opening for the season.

Please be aware that all public swimming pools must have an operating drinking water fountain provided within 50 feet of the pool. If your drinking water fountain is temporarily out of service, contact your local DHEC office and discuss options for providing drinking water while the fountain is fixed. If the Department is not informed of the water fountain's failure, provided with a schedule to bring it into compliance, and provided with an intermediate means of supplying drinking water to patrons, it will be marked as non-compliant on the inspection.

Foot rinse showers are required on site for all outdoor public swimming pools built after 1983. Foot rinse showers should be located near the pool's primary entrance point with up to 3 required, based on the number of entry points intended for patron access. Full body showers located on the pool deck will work in lieu of foot rinse showers. Foot rinse showers provide a proactive means for patrons to wash debris from their feet before entering the pool.

Updating The Department - Facility Information Sheets

As we enter into our fourth year of using electronic inspections, the Department has collected e-mail addresses for public swimming pool facility owners, managers, and pool operators so they can receive a copy of the inspection reports for their recreational water facility. The Department asks that if you would like to have these e-mail contacts updated, please fill out a Facility Information Sheet and submit it to your local regional office. Locations of the DHEC regional office can be found under DHEC Swimming Pool Contact Information on the back of this newsletter. Facility Information Sheets are also very valuable for updating your mailing address with the Department and for providing information on where to leave an inspection report summary. You can find copies of the Facility Information Sheet at:
https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/D-3441.pdf

What To Do If An Incident Occurs At Your Facility

If an incident occurs at your public swimming pool where a patron or employee dies, suffers an injury, or has an accident requiring emergency medical services, an emergency room visit, or hospitalization, the Department requires that the owner or owner's designated agent submit an Incident Report within 72 hours of the occurrence. Submitting incident reports after an incident is critical, as it helps keep the Department informed of any issues. The Department will also perform an inspection after an incident is reported so we can verify that the pool was being operated as per the Regulation. This is critical in case a legal matter arises surrounding the incident. Following an incident, fill out an Incident Report and contact the local regional office and inform them of the incident. They will then come out and perform an inspection. At that time, the Incident Report should be given to them. You can get a copy of the incident report by visiting:
https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/d-3785.pdf

Pool Equipment

Automatic Controllers on Pools and Spas

Keeping a pool's chemicals levels compliant with South Carolina Public Swimming Pool Regulation (R.61-51) is vital to prevent your recreational water facility from becoming a vector for the spread of recreational water illness. Often there is no pool operator on site to constantly check and adjust chemical levels. Some facilities have chosen to overcome this obstacle by using a means to digitally track and maintain chemical levels with the use of automatic controllers. Automatic controllers will test the pool water for oxidation reduction potential (ORP) and directly inject chlorine or acid to maintain the ORP and pH levels set by the operator. Automatic controllers are not infallible and must be maintained with periodic cleaning or changing of the probes according to the manufactures recommendations. Automatic controllers also have built in alarms, that go off when issues occur with either the flow or chemical levels and if this occurs steps should be taken to correct the issue. While they can be very useful in maintaining chemical levels, if not installed properly as per South Carolina Public Swimming Pool Regulations (R.61-51), they can end up being an injury hazard to pool patrons.

As required in South Carolina Public Swimming Pool Regulations (R.61-51) all type D pools (Spas) built after 1992 and all type C (kiddie pools), type E (play feature), and type F (special purpose) pools less than 1,500 gallons built after 2003 must have an operating automatic controller. This regulation was put in place because these types of pools have so little water that the chemistry can change rapidly based on patron load.

As per South Carolina Public Swimming Pool Regulations (R.61-51), if an automatic controller is used on any recreational water facility, they must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instruction and also must be directly wired to the recirculation pump and flow switch so that when flow stops the chemical feed pumps are switched off. This ensures that the automatic controller can not inject chemicals when the water is not being recirculated.

If flow stops but the automatic controller continues to inject chemicals into the line it can cause serious issues. When combined, chlorine products and acid form chlorine gas. If the automatic controller is injecting both chlorine and acid into a line without flow it has been known to form chlorine gas in the line. When the recirculation system is then turned on again, the chlorine gas is pushed out into the pool. Chlorine gas can cause blurred vision, coughing, chest tightness, difficulty breathing, nausea, vomiting, and even fluid build up in the lungs.

The American Chemistry Council has put out a video describing these incidents and methods for preventing it at your facility. The video can be found on Youtube by searching "Preventing Unintended Chemical Injections" or you can find a link to the video on the CDC's website "Facts About Chlorine" by visiting:

https://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/chlorine/basics/facts.asp

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Public Swimming Pools

Q. Where can I get a copy of the Public Swimming Pools Regulation 61-51 that was updated as of June 27, 2014?

A. You can find a copy of the revised Public Swimming Pools Regulation 61-51 on the DHEC website: https://live-sc-dhec.pantheonsite.io/sites/default/files/media/document/R.61-51.pdff

Q. How do I make sure that customers and DHEC inspectors know my pool area is closed when performing maintenance?

A. DHEC asks that when you close your pool area for maintenance, you lock and place a "Pool Closed" or "No Swimming" sign on all gates that lead into the pool area. The Department also asks that you write "pool closed" in the log book. This ensures that patrons and DHEC staff are aware that the pool area is closed and that swimming is not allowed.

Q. What are the requirements for the emergency notification device?

Can a voice over internet provider (VOIP) be used?

A. Public Swimming Pools Regulation 61-51 requires that "a toll free emergency notification device to notify emergency personnel must be provided within two hundred (200) foot walking distance of the pool and in a location that it is easily accessible during the hours the pool is in operation." The address of the facility must also be posted at the emergency notification device in a manner that is permanent and weather resistant. As it concerns voice over internet providers (VOIP), regulation 61-51 **does prohibit** their use as an emergency notification device.

Q. What can I do to make sure the Department knows who the Pool Operator of Record (POR) is at my facility?

A. The Department requires that the POR name and certification number is posted on the pool rules sign or on a separate sign so that it is visible to the public. The Department also finds it helpful for facilities to post a copy of the POR's certification in the pump room inside the log book. This helps the Department verify that your POR still has a valid license to operate pools in SC.

Q. Where can I get a copy of the 2019 Pool Log Book for my facility?

A. You can obtain a free copy of the 2019 Pool Log Book from your local DHEC office. Please be sure to get one for each pool you have. (See DHEC office numbers and locations on the back page of this newsletter).

Q. What is the requirement for monitoring the temperature in a Public Spa?

A. Public Swimming Pool Regulaiton 61-51 requires heated type D (Spas) pools to be monitored for temperature in one of **three** ways: Every two hours posted on the spa caution sign, continuously with automated equipment that displays it within sight of the spa, or with a shatter resistant thermometer placed in the spa so that patron can view it. The third option is the most prevalent used and the Department has seen this implemented by either placing a shatter resistant thermometer in the skimmer or tied to the handrail leading into the spa. Another way is using the skimmer lids with the thermometer built into the top.

Q. I want to replace outdated or broken equipment around the pool. What is required by DHEC?

A. Whenever modifications are made to a public swimming pool, DHEC requires that you submit a Change Order Request Form for review and approval prior to commencement of the desired work. You can obtain a copy of the Change Order Request Form by visiting: https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/D-3627.pdf

Q. What should I do when vomit or fecal matter is in my pool?

A. Close the pool or spa immediately. The type of fecal event that occurred (formed or loose stool) will determine the concentration of chlorine and disinfection time. You should treat vomit as you would a formed fecal incident. Please visit the following website for more detailed information: https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pdf/fecal-incident-response-guidelines.pdf

Q. How do I properly fill in a pool or spa and let DHEC know that the pool is no longer in operation?

A. DHEC requires that a written notification to be submitted that describes the intended procedure and materials that will be used to fill in the pool or spa prior to the commencement of any work. If intended procedure is acceptable the Department will respond with a letter approving the request.

The first step should be to remove the water and drainage connections. The next step is to choose how it will be filled in. Any of the following **three** methods are acceptable:

- Fill the pool in with concrete.
- Completely pierce the pool shell at the deepest point, creating a hole that is at least a 1ft x 1ft, and fill the pool with uncontaminated, clean soil that does not contain any logs or stumps.
- Destroy and remove all concrete and steel associated with the pool shell, and fill in the hole completely with uncontaminated clean soil.

Once the pool is filled in, there must be no subsequent settling that causes the water to pond. Following the completion of the work, schedule an inspection with your local DHEC office to verify that the pool has been properly filled in.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
We promote and protect the health of the public and the environment.
www.scdhec.gov

Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

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