



“POOL CLOSED”

Please remember that pools and spas must be checked **at least once** every twenty four hours. You may need to check the water quality on a more frequent schedule though for the following reasons:

- 1) High bather load
- 2) Chemical adjustment
- 3) Swimmer complaints

It happens that pool operators have other duties and may sometimes not have a chance to check water quality before the pool is scheduled to open. If you are unsure of your levels please keep the **pool closed** until you know the water quality is correct. If the pool is closed to swimmers you need to either post a sign or lock door (if not a fire exit) so swimmers do not enter. There is no health code violation for a pool being closed.

Our goal at the Health Department is to ensure swimmers are swimming in balanced water.



SIGNAGE

Pool and spa operators are required to provide and maintain signage specifying user rules and safety information in a conspicuous place in the pool area with easily readable lettering at least three-eighths of an inch high. All swimming, wading, spa, and spray pool facilities must have signs stating the pool rules.

Swimming pool and wading pool signage requirements are identical. Spa signage must include all the rules that apply to swimming pools plus additional elements. Please notice that for both swimming pools and spa pools that where no lifeguard is present, the following additional rules must be included in signage:

☼ Children age 12 and under must be supervised at the pool by a responsible adult (age 18 & older) at all times the child is at the pool.

☼ Persons age 13—17 must not use the pool alone.

Signage is also required for spray pools, but requires fewer elements. Where diving boards are used, signs must be provided and maintained for their proper use, though for diving boards, the Health District does not require specific language. Sample signage for each situation can be found at our website:



www.kitsapcountyhealth.com/environmentalhealth/food/docs/pool_sample_signage.pdf

Does Your Emergency Phone Work?



WHY DILUTE, IT SAYS 5PPM?

Sometimes when testing free chlorine in your pool or spa you may get a reading close to the upper limit indicating 5ppm. The real level may be much higher than 5ppm. The only way to determine the true chlorine level is to do a dilution. If you are using a Taylor kit the directions are inside the lid cover along with the free chlorine testing directions. If your kit does not have directions for doing a dilution you can contact one of the Health District Pool Program Staff for a helpful handout. We are always willing to demonstrate dilutions during our routine visits.

For swimmers safety free chlorine must not exceed 10ppm.
So when you get a reading of 5ppm, please do a dilution.

Proper Disinfectant Levels

Washington State Recreational Water Facility Code requires that disinfectant and pH levels are measured at least **once** a day, and if those levels are outside of proper range, then they must be adjusted. Pools may open to the public when levels are correct.

As you know, if there is not enough disinfectant in water, germs that can make people sick may survive and infect the bathers. If the disinfectant level is too high, that is not good either. If the pH level is too low, it can damage the parts of the pool. If the pH is too high, chlorine will not work to kill germs. So, monitoring and adjusting disinfectant and pH levels is crucial to ensure pool safety. Make sure you are using the right kind of reagents and follow the directions for water testing. Refer to the tables below for optimal levels.

Swimming Pool	Minimum	Maximum
Chlorine	1.5	10
Chlorine w/Cyanurate Acid	2.0	10
Bromine	2.5	10

SPA & Wading Pool	Minimum	Maximum
Chlorine	3.0	10
Chlorine w/Cyanurate Acid	3.5	10
Bromine	4.0	10

Chlorine is measured as free available chlorine

All Pools & Spas	Minimum	Maximum
pH	7.2	8.0

☀ **Idea:** cut out and laminate the above table and keep with your test kit. This will act as a quick reference guide.

Pool Class 2010

The Health District will **not** offer a Pool Class in Kitsap County this year. Please take advantage of the Swimming Pool and Spa Conference offered by the Washington State Department of Health. The class is offered April 27th in Lakewood. A flyer announcing the class was mailed to all Kitsap County pools. For more information and to register go to the www.wseha.org website.



What You Need to Know about Cyanuric Acid in Pools & Spas.

Cyanuric acid comes in two different forms.

One form is cyanuric acid by itself, and the other form is a combination of chlorine disinfectant and cyanuric acid. When it comes in the latter form (disinfectant and cyanuric acid combination), the active ingredient on the label is listed as either "Dichloro....." or "Trichloro.....". If you see this, it means that when you add disinfectant to the pool or spa, you are adding cyanuric acid with it. Please look at the active ingredient of your disinfectant to see what you are using.

Cyanuric acid is recommended (not required) only for outdoor pools and spas.

Summer's strong sunlight can break down the chlorine chemical in water, and you can lose up to 90% of the chlorine in as little as two hours. Cyanuric acid holds on to chlorine in water to slow down the loss caused by sunlight.

There are negative effects from having too much cyanuric acid in your pool or spa.

One negative effect is that cyanuric acid not only slows down the loss caused by sunlight, but also slows down the chlorine's ability to kill germs. Cyanuric acid should be maintained between 30ppm and 50ppm. Having more than 50ppm of cyanuric acid gives no additional benefit for retaining chlorine in water while the ability to kill germs goes down above that level. Another possible negative effect is that, at 100ppm or higher, some scientists suggest damage to the liver. But this has not been confirmed yet.

If cyanuric acid measures higher than 90ppm, it must be lowered.

You can obtain a reagent from your pool supplier to measure the concentration of cyanuric acid. If you have cyanuric acid in your pool or spa, it must be measured at least once a week. If it measures higher than 90ppm, it must be lowered by draining old water and adding fresh water. As a side note, when you add water especially to a spa, make sure you are not putting the water that was sitting in a hose to the spa. When water just sits, bacteria called *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* can grow in it, and these bacteria can cause skin infections. Run the water through the hose for a few minutes before starting to fill the spa. Make sure that disinfectant and pH measurements are in the proper range.

Refer to Proper Disinfectant Levels on page 2



Swimming pools:

Chlorine levels must be between 1.5 and 10.0.

For Chlorine with Cyanurate Acid 2.0 – 10.0.

For Bromine 2.5 – 10.0. These ranges are measured as free available chlorine.

Spa & Wading pools:

Chlorine levels must be between 3.0 – 10.0.

For Chlorine with Cyanurate Acid 3.5 – 10.0.

For Bromine 4.0 – 10.0. These ranges are measured as free available chlorine.

Pools and Spas must maintain pH between 7.2 – 8.0.

Monitor and Record Water Quality

Pool News

April 2010

Maintain is the Name of the Game



For Safety and Savings

Regular equipment maintenance at your pool facility helps reduce costly repair and unnecessary breakdowns. It also helps you to maintain excellent water quality and is critical for ensuring bather safety.

As you get your pools ready for another season of use give some extra attention to the safety interlock system (if your pool is equipped with one) in order to detect a possible problem before it occurs.

SAFETY INTERLOCKS

Safety interlocks between chemical feed pumps and the pool recirculation system should be tested regularly to ensure that the chemical feed pumps shut down when the pool recirculation system is off.



This is important because of the potential safety issues associated with continuing to feed disinfectant, i.e. chlorine, (and possibly acid as well, i.e. muriatic acid) into the recirculation system when the system is down for maintenance or because of some other condition. When the system turns back on the two compounds combine to form a chlorine gas that then gets pumped into the pool and could seriously injure a bather.

TEST YOUR SYSTEM

With the recirculation system operating **and the chemical feed pumps running**, shut down the water recirculation pumps and visually observe the chemical feed pumps to see if they shut down as well. If your interlock system is operating correctly then the chemical feed pumps will shut down too. If the chemical feed pumps do not shut down then have your interlock system repaired immediately and increase water quality testing to ensure proper water chemistry until the repair can be made.

Check us out at:
www.kitsapcountyhealth.com

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Restock Your First Aid Kit