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Newsplash

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DHEC Swimming Pool Contact Information

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Anderson, SC 29621
Phone: (864) 260-5569
Fax: (864) 260-4855

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) 596-3800
Fax: (864) 596-2136

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) 641-7670
Fax: (803) 641-7675

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) 223-0333
Fax: (864) 223-6935

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) 773-6366

Central (Columbia) Office:

2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

• Compliance Assurance
Phone: (803) 898-4015

• Permitting
Phone: (803) 898-4159

• Fee Payment
Phone: (803) 898-3460

NEWSPLASH

A Publication of the S.C. DHEC Bureau of Water

Spring 2015

Public Swimming Pool Inspection Process

Electronic Inspection Reports

Beginning this pool season, DHEC will be using electronic tablets to record swimming pool inspection results. Instead of leaving a hard copy of the inspection report at the facility, DHEC staff will email the reports to facility representatives. This will help ensure that everyone involved in the operation and maintenance of the pool will receive a copy of the inspection results. In order to keep contact information current, DHEC requests that facility owners, property management companies and pool operators provide updated email addresses at the beginning of every pool season. DHEC's annual operating permit invoices now include a form to submit current contact information for all parties involved

with the pool. When contact information changes, please notify DHEC's Bureau of Water of the changes as soon as possible.

In the event that DHEC closes a public swimming pool, a Swimming Pool Inspection Summary noting the deficiencies will be left at the facility. The summary will indicate whether the pool may re-open once the corrections are made or if the facility is required to call for a re-inspection prior to re-opening. The Swimming Pool Inspection Summaries will help pool operators make corrections in a timely manner so that the pool can re-open as soon as possible. A Swimming Pool Inspection Summary will NOT be left at the facility if the pool is not closed due to a failed inspection. Electronic copies will be emailed to facility representatives following all pool inspections.



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www.scdhec.gov/environment/WaterQuality/SwimmingPoolsRecreationalWaters

DHEC
S.C. DHEC Bureau of Water
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

NEWSPLASH

Pool Safety

Glass at Poolside – A Bad Idea

At first glance, a broken drinking glass may not seem like an imminent health hazard, but in the wrong environment, it can have serious consequences. An environment where glass should never be found is at a swimming pool. Small glass fragments are created if glass is broken on the pool deck, or worse, in the pool itself. Because of the pool deck's slip-resistant (rough) finish, broken glass in the deck area is very difficult to completely clean up. Smaller pieces can "hitchhike" on bathers' clothes and shoes to other parts of the pool deck and cause cuts to bare feet. The only solution to completely eliminate the glass fragments is to power wash and sweep the entire pool deck. The cleanup has to be deliberate and well planned in order to prevent glass from being washed into the pool.

Broken glass in the pool itself is more difficult to remedy. There are two potential health hazards when glass is in the pool — ingestion and lacerations. If glass is suspended in the water column, pool users can swallow it. Swallowing fine glass fragments stirred up by swimmers in the pool is especially dangerous for the younger pool user as they are the group of swimmers most commonly ingesting pool water. Since young swimmers spend the majority of their pool time in the shallower water, they will also be more likely to sustain cuts from broken glass on the pool floor. Removing all glass from the pool can be expensive and time consuming. Simply trying to vacuum up the smaller glass fragments will not resolve the problem. Responsible commercial pool operators will require the complete draining of the pool, followed by a pressure wash of the interior surface. The final steps are to sweep the pool floor and pressure wash the interior surface a second time. Depending on the amount of glass lost, the pool's filter may also require a sand change. The solution is simple — to avoid the unnecessary cost, aggravation, and potential lost pool time, keep glass of any kind away from the pool area.

Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) Around Pools and Spas

A Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) constantly monitors the flow of electric current through a protected light fixture, pump motor, or appliance circuit, and it senses any loss of electric current to an outside path. If the electric current going to equipment differs slightly from the current returning from the equipment, the GFI will instantly interrupt the current to prevent damage. Because there have been more than a dozen electrocutions around pools since 1997, it is essential to have GFIs present at all electrical circuits within the pool area to prevent death or serious injury of swimmers. This includes all accessory equipment, pool lights, electric drinking water fountains, and bathhouse/toilet facility receptacles, regardless of their proximity to the pool. If it has been more than 5 years since an electrician has visited your facility, it is a good idea to have one come out and inspect your pool wiring to ensure it is compliant with Public Swimming Pools Regulation 61-51 and the National Fire Protection Association National Electrical code.

Public Swimming Pools

Regulation 61-51

Preseason Inspections

As a result of amendments to Public Swimming Pools Regulation 61-51 (effective June 27, 2014), the upcoming 2015 Swimming Pool Season requires upgrades and modifications for many pools. DHEC's Recreational Waters program offers preseason inspections prior to the opening of a public swimming pool for the season. While a preseason inspection is not required, it is highly recommended. Our regional staff can provide compliance assistance and a general safety inspection to identify corrective actions required prior to opening the pool for the season. Not only will this provide peace of mind, but it can also prevent untimely and unnecessary pool closures as a result of a failed routine inspection early in the season. Timing is everything. Get an early start and prepare your pools by contacting regional staff in your local DHEC office to schedule a preseason inspection. (See our contact list on Page 4 of this newsletter.)

Public Swimming Pool Regulations 61-51 Amendments (Effective June 27, 2014)

- R.61-51.C.12 – Added new language clarifying which type of emergency notification devices are acceptable to DHEC. Added language requiring that the pool address be posted by the emergency notification device.
- R.61-51.J.11(a) – Revised language to delete requirements for lifeguards that were based on pool surface area. The requirements were not in accordance with SC Code Section 44-55-2310. Added language to R.61-51 to include language from SC Code Section 44-55-2310.
- R.61-51.J.11(b) – Added language clarifying that the pool is to be locked when the pool area is not open.
- R.61-51.J.11(g) – Deleted existing requirements regarding emergency notification device. Added requirements for emergency notification device to match R.61-51.C.12. Added requirement to post physical pool address near the emergency notification device.
- R.61-51.K.1(a)(i) – Revised to delete requirement for displaying the annual operating permit.
- R.61-51.K.1(d) – Deleted subsection (d), requirements for technical assistance visit.
- R.61-51.L – Deleted subsection L, appeals language.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Public Swimming Pools

- Q.** Where can I get a copy of the revised 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 online on the DHEC website: www.scdhec.gov/Agency/docs/water-regs/r61-51.pdf
- 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" sign on all gates that lead into the pool. 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 drinking water fountain and foot rinse shower? When was the regulation put in place?
- A.** Public Swimming Pools Regulation 61-51 requires that "at least one drinking water fountain shall be provided within 50 feet of the pool at all public pools," and "all outdoor pools shall be provided with a foot rinse shower at major entrance points, up to a maximum of three. The foot rinse shower must be located within 20 feet of the corresponding entrance point." The requirement for a drinking water fountain has been in the public swimming pools regulation since 1942. The requirement for a foot rinse shower has been in the regulation since 1983.
- Q.** What should I do when a fecal event occurs 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. Please visit the following website for more detailed information: www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/swimming/pools/fecal-incident-response-recommendations.pdf
- Q.** Where can I get a copy of the 2015 Pool Log Book for my facility?
- A.** You can obtain a free copy of the 2015 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 Page 4.)
- Q.** What should I do if an incident or accident occurs at my pool and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response is required?
- A.** If any type of incident or accident occurs at your facility

requiring an EMS response, an emergency room visit, or hospitalization, the owner or designated agent must report it to DHEC in writing on a DHEC-approved form within 72 hours of the occurrence. You can obtain a copy of the Accident-Incident Reporting Form (DHEC Form 0953) by visiting: www.scdhec.gov/Health/FHPF/SubmitAccidentReport.

- 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. Once the Change Order Request Form is submitted, it will be reviewed by one of DHEC's engineers to make sure that all proposed new equipment is of sufficient size and capacity to work for your particular pool. Equipment changes that require a Change Order Request Form can range from changing out depth marker tiles to installing a new chlorinator. You can obtain a copy of the Change Order Request Form by visiting: www.scdhec.gov/library/D-3627.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 Change Order Request Form be submitted that describes the procedure and materials that will be used to fill in the pool or spa prior to the commencement of any work.

The first step should be to remove the water and drainage connections. The next step is to choose how it will be filled in:

- 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.
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