

THE SAFETY OBSERVER

Safety Information for Employees

SWIMMING POOLS

Swimming pools and hot tubs are regulated by your County Health Department, who may require their specific licensing and regulations be followed for such amenities. Have a clear understanding of what is required in your area for monitoring chemical levels in your community swimming pool and hot tub.

Ensure your community pool and spa have compliant drain covers and a second anti-entrapment system installed per the Pool & Spa Safety Act (P&SS Act).

Maintain a Swimming Pool Service Log using a three-ring notebook to document and track all readings as outlined in the Health Department guidelines. Chemical levels are to be logged, as well as the time of day testing was done, quantities of chemicals added, and the person who performed these tasks. If your pool is serviced by an outside pool vendor, work orders detailing chemical levels and all services performed must be maintained in the Swimming Pool Service Log.

Pool chemicals must be checked at least daily, and more often during heavy usage periods. The deepest point of the pool bottom must be clearly visible at all times.

Pool chemicals are to be stored in a dry, secured area, off the ground.

The required signage, lighting and safety devices are to be maintained and inspected regularly. Pool rules should include, but not limited to: hours of operation, a statement indicating that diving, glass, horseplay and running are not allowed. Also, if lifeguards are not on duty, a sign to that effect must be posted. (Remember to check with local Department of Health requirements.)

Depth markers are to be inspected quarterly to ensure they are clearly visible. The condition of the sand in the filter is to be checked monthly. Impellers are to be cleaned out regularly to prevent them from becoming clogged with debris.

Clean the swimming pool and surrounding area on a daily basis. Inspect, clean and treat according to local code requirements. Any leaks in plumbing, damaged walking surfaces, and deficiencies in ladders and railings are to be repaired immediately.

Safety equipment such as floatation devices, shepherd's hook, and self-closing/latching gates must be in working condition at all times. Pool gate latches must be protected from reach-through. Any pool gate that does not self-close and latch with every use is to be locked down until repaired. Pool enclosures are to be intact and sturdy, and any damage is to be repaired immediately.