

Facility Immediate Closure Violations

The red bolded items on the back of a Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) water recreation facility inspection report form are considered critical health and safety hazards that require immediate correction. The list below represents a smaller group of critical items, where the risk to facility users is high enough to require immediate closure of the pool or facility. Review the prevention tips listed below to help you spot hazards early. If an SRHD inspector identifies any of the violations below at your facility, the pool(s) may be required to close until the issue(s) is resolved:

Required pH and Disinfectant Levels: SRHD has laminated cards available showing the minimum and maximum pH and disinfection levels for all permitted swimming pools, spas, wading pools, and recirculating spray pools. These cards can be obtained from your inspector or downloaded at www.srhd.org/services/wr-docs.asp. Post them in a prominent location and refer to them often to help you keep your pool water safe. **If your water testing shows levels outside these ranges, take action to correct the issue right away. It may be necessary to close the pool(s), make the necessary adjustments and retest the pool water before reopening.**

Water Clarity: SRHD’s inspectors distribute red and black secchi discs (pronounced sekki) along with instructions for testing water clarity. View at <https://srhd.org/media/documents/WR-waterclarity1.pdf>. Check your water clarity often and follow the instructions on the handout carefully to make sure the pool bottom and main drains are clearly visible. When the disc is placed in the deepest part of the pool, the water should be clear enough for you to see the individual colors. **If you can’t see the disc, close the pool!** For a secchi disc, contact SRHD at 509-324-1560, ext. 4 or livingenvironment@srhd.org.

Water Quality Reading		Green	Red
pH		7.2 – 8.0	Less than 7.2 OR More than 8.0
Disinfectant	Chlorine • (Gas, liquid, and HTH granules (calcium hypochlorite)	1.5 – 10.0 ppm	Less than 1.5 ppm OR Greater than 10.0 ppm
	Stabilized Chlorine • (Tablets or granules containing <i>Dichlor</i> or <i>Trichlor</i>)	2.0 – 10.0 ppm	Less than 2.0 ppm OR Greater than 10.0 ppm
	Bromine	2.5 – 10.0 ppm	Less than 2.5 ppm OR Greater than 10.0 ppm
Temperature		Maximum of 104° F	Greater than 104° F
Cyanuric Acid		Maximum of 90 ppm	Greater than 90 ppm
Clarity		Clear	Hazy, cloudy, main drain or bottom not visible
Main drains		Main drain covers secured in good condition	Main drain covers cracked, missing, loose
Filtration System		Operating properly	Not operating, operating poorly

Maximum Spa Water Temperature: Check the spa water temperature during the heating cycle each day to make sure it does not rise above 104°F. **If the spa water is above the maximum temperature, close the spa until the heater is adjusted and the water is at 104°F or less.**

Barriers and Fencing: SRHD has a handout showing the basic requirements for fencing, gates, doors and other elements of the barrier surrounding the pool(s) at your facility: <https://srhd.org/media/documents/BarrierRequirements1.pdf>. All barriers surrounding pools must conform to these minimum requirements to prevent unauthorized access. The gates, doors and windows allowing access to the inside of the enclosure must be lockable to prevent public access when the facility is not open. All doors and gates must close and latch on their own whenever anyone, including small children, leaves the enclosure.

Inspect all pool enclosure doors and gates often to make sure they close and latch as required when opened wide or even just a few inches. Fencing and windows must not allow a 4-inch diameter sphere to pass through any point in the barrier. Furnishings, landscaping features, shrubs and trees that could be used by children to help them climb over the barrier must be corrected immediately. This may require moving the item away from the fence or cutting back shrubs or trees to prevent children from entering the enclosure. **If violations related to the barrier are observed during an inspection, the facility may be required to close until the necessary repairs are completed.** If you need to make modifications to your barrier contact SRHD at livingenvironment@srhd.org or 509-324-1560, ext. 4. Go to <https://srhd.org/programs-and-services/pools-water-recreation/construction-remodeling-renovation> for information about plan review requirements.

Main Drain Covers: All main drain covers must be properly installed and intact to prevent serious injury or death to pool users. Be sure to inspect each drain cover on a regular basis, making sure the screws are in place and the drain cover is properly secured over the sump. **If any screws are missing, or a drain cover is cracked or missing, close the pool immediately!** Covers should be checked and replaced according to the manufacturer's expiration date. If you need to install new drain covers or replace existing drain covers, contact SRHD at livingenvironment@srhd.org or 509-324-1560, ext. 4. Go to <https://srhd.org/programs-and-services/pools-water-recreation/construction-remodeling-renovation> for more information about plan review requirements and main drain safety.

Pools with Only One Main Drain: All pools with a single main drain must be equipped with a safety system or device to help prevent entrapment. In many cases, this may mean a Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS) was installed in place of an emergency shutoff switch to meet the requirements of both state regulations and the federal Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB). These types of devices must be tested at least once every six months to verify they shut off all pumps connected to the pool and sound an audible alarm in the pool enclosure (or another location where facility staff is always present). All testing must be documented. **If the device fails to function as required, the pool must close until repairs are completed.**

Spa Emergency Shutoff Switch: All spas in Washington State must be equipped with an emergency shutoff switch regardless of the number of main drains provided. When activated, the device must shut off all pumps connected to the spa and sound an alarm. Regular testing of the switch to make sure it functions as required is recommended. **If this device fails to function as required, the spa must close until repairs are completed.**

Skimmer Equalizer Line Covers: All swimming pools, spas and wading pools designed or constructed after October 31, 2004, must be equipped with a proper drain cover over the skimmer equalizer lines to prevent entrapment. Additionally, some facility owners of older pools elected to install VGB compliant covers over the skimmer equalizer lines to meet the requirements of the federal Act. **In both instances, if these covers are cracked, broken, or missing the pool must close immediately.** If you need to install new drain covers or replace existing drain covers, contact SRHD at livingenvironment@srhd.org or 509-324-1560, ext. 4. Go to <https://srhd.org/programs-and-services/pools-water-recreation/construction-remodeling-renovation> for information about plan review requirements and suction fitting safety.

Diving Boards, Play Toys and Water Slides: Diving boards, play toys and water slides must be inspected regularly and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions. **Any diving boards, play toys, or water slides in need of repair must close until the manufacturer has been contacted and all items of concern are corrected.** Contact SRHD at livingenvironment@srhd.org or 509-324-1560, ext. 4 for additional information.

Shower Temperature: Shower hot water temperature must not exceed 120° F. Check hot water temperature in shower areas regularly with a thermometer to make sure it does not exceed this maximum temperature. **If the shower hot water temperature exceeds 120°F it must be adjusted immediately.**

Pumps and Filters: Pool pumps and filters must operate 24 hours a day to help ensure proper treatment and turnover of water during all hours of pool operation. All pumps and filters must be inspected regularly and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions. **If this equipment does not function as required, the affected pool must close until repairs are completed.** If you need to install a new pump or filter for any of your pools, contact SRHD at livingenvironment@srhd.org or 509-324-1560, ext. 4. Go to <https://srhd.org/programs-and-services/pools-water-recreation/construction-remodeling-renovation> for more information about plan review requirements.

Lifeguards: Any pool facility required to provide lifeguards or attendants on site must take appropriate measures to make sure staffing levels are sufficient to oversee all the pools within the enclosure. **If appropriate staffing is not available, the owner/operator is required to close the facility.**

Spokane Regional Health District assures nondiscrimination in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. To file a complaint or to request more information, reasonable accommodations, or language translations, contact 509.324.1501 or visit srhd.org.

