

POOL NEWS

SPRING EDITION

APRIL 2013



POOL OPERATIONS PLAN

OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

As a pool operator, you are responsible for the development and implementation of a written pool operation plan for your facility. The prime objective in developing your operational plan is to develop the steps necessary to protect the health and safety of those using or operating the pool. Your plan must be tailored to meet the specific needs and circumstances for each pool. When completed the operator is responsible for implementing the plan and training employees to understand their various pool safety roles. Local rescue, police and fire personnel should be consulted when developing your pool safety plan.

WHAT THE PLAN MUST CONTAIN

The pool code states that owners shall ensure proper operation to protect the public health, safety, and water quality by establishing standard practices and developing a written operations manual which includes and addresses each of the following:

- Physical pool facility components and signage;
- Personnel;
- Users and spectators, including pool rules;
- Emergency response provisions;
- Diving during supervised swimming instruction into water depths recognized as adequate by the organization certifying the activity, such as ARC; and
- Environmental conditions.

For specific pool code requirements addressing operation of water recreation facilities please see Chapter 246-260-131 WAC on the Washington State Department of health website: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/documents/4300/WaterRec-WAC246-260.pdf>.

After reviewing the requirements re-evaluate your existing written plan to make sure that it adequately covers all of the necessary elements. If you do not have a written pool operation plan then take this opportunity to develop one. If you need assistance in completing or evaluating your plan please contact the Health District Pool Staff at (360) 337-5235.



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CYANURIC ACID

Free chlorine can be protected from the effects of UV light in sunlight by the addition of cyanuric acid, sometimes called stabilizer. Cyanuric acid is only recommended for outdoor pools and spas where sunlight can break down free chlorine quickly. There is **NO** chlorine benefit to feeding cyanuric acid into indoor pools and spas.



Cyanuric acid comes in two different forms. One form is cyanuric acid by itself and the other form is stabilized chlorine, a combination of chlorine disinfectant and cyanuric acid. Stabilized chlorine lists either ‘Dichloro..’ or ‘Trichloro...’ as the active ingredient on the label.

There are negative effects from having too much cyanuric acid in your pool or spa. High levels of cyanuric acid reduce chlorine’s ability to destroy organics. Organics include saliva, perspiration, tear-duct and mucous secretions and urine. Having too much cyanuric acid is actually bad for disinfection because it wants to hold on to free chlorine so tightly that some of the free chlorine in your pool is not available to kill germs. Excessive levels of cyanuric acid may lead to an increased risk of algae. Another possible negative effect is that, at 100 ppm or higher, some scientists suggest damage to the liver.

A range of 0-90 ppm is an acceptable level of cyanuric acid in Washington State. Ideally, it should be maintained between 30-50 ppm. Having more than 50 ppm of cyanuric acid gives no additional benefit for retaining chlorine in water while the ability to kill germs goes down above this level. If you have cyanuric acid in your pool or spa, it must be measured at least once a week. Never use stabilized chlorine to super-chlorinate (shock) your pool. This will cause a rapid build-up of cyanuric acid. If cyanuric acid measures higher than 90 ppm, it must be lowered.

Cyanuric acid does not dissipate or evaporate. All it does is accumulate. To lower the levels of cyanuric acid, scrub the sides and bottom of the pool, partially drain the water, flush lines and filters, and refill the pool. This is required each time levels reach over 90 ppm. To prevent cyanuric acid from reaching levels of 90 ppm or greater, it is recommended that the pool be drained by 20 percent and refilled once every month and weekly for spas.

REMINDERS

TEST EMERGENCY SHUT-OFF

Pool operators are required to test the emergency shut-off switch for pool and/or spa at least twice annually to determine if it is properly operating. Please record the test date and results for your records.

REPORT INJURY AND DROWNING

The owner/operator of a Water Recreation Facility must report any death, near drowning or serious injury to the Health District within 48 hours. A serious injury means someone has called for emergency aid and/or the person needs immediate medical treatment at a clinic or emergency room and/or is admitted to a hospital. Please call the Health District at (360) 337-5235 to report or go to the Kitsap Public Health District website kitsappublichealth.org to locate an Injury Report Form.

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

Pool facilities are required to provide pool rule signage. Limited use pools where life-guards are not present must notify users when first using the facility and at least annually thereafter of the pool rules. Place special emphasis on the following two rules:

- Children 12 years of age and under are not to use the pool unless supervised by a responsible adult (18 and over) whenever they use the pool.
- Persons 13—17 are not to use the pool alone.



SKIMMER WEIRS

Most of the dirt and debris that finds its way into your pool or spa accumulates in two places: on the water's surface, and at the pool bottom. Your main bottom drain, of course, takes care of all the dirt that settles to the bottom of the pool.



The surface dirt is usually handled by one of two types of overflow systems. A gutter system, which runs around the entire perimeter of the pool, is usually seen in larger "general use" pools (community pools, high schools, etc.). Your pool may have a system of skimmer ports built into the pool or spa wall at the water surface line; found in most "limited use" pools (apartments, motels, etc.). Since we generally see more skimmer port-type systems than overflow gutter systems, we'll save the gutter systems for another day.

We'll call the pivoting covers of these skimmer ports "skimmer weirs," but you'll often hear them called "flappers" or "flapper covers." Whatever you call them (we'll stick with "skimmer weirs" for now since that seems to be the standard technical term for them), a weir is an automatically adjustable gate which has several purposes:

- It allows the correct and consistent amount of water to flow into the skimmer port.
- It keeps large debris from entering the pump system, as well as, making sure water going into the skimmer cannot go back out into the pool
- It breaks the surface water tension and increases the velocity of the surface flow through a "water-pulling-more-water-over-a-fall" effect; which allows surface dirt to be drawn into the skimmer port at a faster rate.
- It can also act as a safety mechanism protecting against entrapment hazards.

Though we find these skimmer weirs broken or missing at a lot of pools, they are actually an important work component of your pool's mechanical system. If they're missing or broken they need to be replaced as soon as possible. For older pools or spas it is possible to find a generic replacement. Circular floating replacements that can be placed within the skimmer chamber above the basket strainer may also be available. In addition:

- Check pool water levels daily; and add water to the system as needed. The water level in the pool should be maintained above the inlet level of the skimmer port at all times. If the water level in the pool drops below the inlet level of the skimmer, damage to the pump or increased suction at the main bottom drain can result.
- Skimmer baskets need to be checked and cleaned daily. As with a water level problem; a clogged strainer basket can cause damage to your pump.
- Replace broken, cracked, or missing skimmer basket access lids. These could pose a tripping hazard.
- Do not put pool chemicals in the skimmer baskets. Nosy bathers could access the skimmer baskets through the openings in the pool deck. Contact with the chemicals could cause chemical burns or poisonings.
- Be sure that the flow of water is equal throughout all of the skimmer ports. The risk of entrapment can be reduced by adjusting the flow of water so that it is equal through all the skimmers.
- Replace broken or missing skimmer weirs. This is another potential entrapment hazard, especially in spas.

READY, SET, GO! 5210 KITSAP

“Ready, Set, Go! 5210 Kitsap” is a countywide initiative to increase physical activity and healthy eating to reduce child and adult obesity in Kitsap County.

5210 involves adopting four simple strategies to create a healthier lifestyle:

- 5** or more **fruits & vegetables**
- 2** hours or less **recreational screen time**
- 1** hour or more of **physical activity**
- 0** sugary drinks, **more water & low fat milk**

5210 Kitsap mission is to increase physical activity and healthy eating in 6 focus areas—schools, after school, early childhood, healthcare, community and workplace. This broad approach makes it easier for all ages to adopt it, wherever they work, play or learn.

As an employer you may be interested in the tools and information that **Ready, Set, Go! 5210 Kitsap** has to support businesses with workplace wellness resources for your employees.

To learn more about **5210 Kitsap** and/or have questions, visit www.5210kitsap.org.



POOL PROGRAM STAFF

To reach an inspector, please call 360-337-5235 or dial direct:

- Bonnie Petek, Manager337-4701
- Ross Lytle337-5217
- Paul Guintoli337-4703
- Patty Olsen307-4249
- Dave Zollweg337-4702

