

Reopening and Operating Your Pool

The Orange County Health Care Agency, Environmental Health understands your need to reopen and operate as soon as possible. We are here to provide assistance. Prior to reopening and operating, ensure that pool users can continue to follow any Public Health Orders that remain in place and the following guidelines can be achieved to prevent any pool safety risks. Your facility should not be operating unless all of the guidelines can be checked off and maintained.

✓	Water Chemistry / Clarity				
	Sanitizer	Increase your pool service frequency as needed to ensure the proper concentration levels are maintained.			
		<i>Pool</i>	<i>Spa</i>	<i>Wading</i>	
		Chlorine – unstabilized	1ppm – 10ppm	3ppm – 10ppm	3ppm – 10ppm
		Chlorine – stabilized	2ppm – 10ppm	3ppm – 10ppm	3ppm – 10ppm
		Bromine	2ppm	4ppm	4ppm
	pH	Maintain pH level between 7.2-7.8.			
	Water Clarity	Water clarity is a visual measure of water quality. The water should be clear, ensuring that the main drain is visible at all times.			
✓	Enclosure				
	Enclosure	The fence/enclosure must be in good repair so that children are unable to crawl through or climb over. It should be a height of at least 4 feet if built prior to July 1, 1994 and at least 5 feet if built after July 1, 1994.			
	Gates	Gates need to be self-closing and self-latching to prevent unauthorized access by children.			
✓	Entrapment				
	Anti-entrapment Device or System	All single main drains that are not unblockable need to have an anti-entrapment device or system that is operational. The body of water should be closed if it does not have an operational anti-entrapment device or system, when required.			
	Suction Covers/Fittings	All suction covers and fittings need to be an approved anti-entrapment cover and in good repair.			
✓	Recirculation / Filtration / Disinfection				
	Chemical Feeder	Chemical feeders must be present and operational.			
	Recirculation and Filtration System	The components of the recirculation, which includes the skimmer, and filtration systems must be working to provide clear, clean and sanitary pool water. If the recirculation and filtration system has been off for any period of time, it is recommended to keep it on for 24 hours prior to reopening the pool for use to			

		allow for proper sanitization of water. If pools have been open or recirculation and filtration systems have been regularly running, it is recommended to turn it on at least 2 hours prior to opening the pool for use. It must always be on when the pool is open for use.
✓	Safety Hazards	
	Lifesaving Equipment	Each pool must have the following: life ring (17" outside diameter) with attached length of rope (3/16 inch minimum diameter), capable of spanning the width of the pool at its widest point and a body hook securely attached to a 12-foot pole.
	Spa Safety	Ensure the spa water temperature is 104°F or less and the Emergency Shut-off Switch is operational if required.
✓	Maintenance	
	Vermin	Look around the pool deck and inside the pool including the skimmers to ensure there are no dead animals or fecal matter on the deck, inside the pool, or in the pool skimmer baskets. Use the proper cleaning and sanitization procedures if any dead animals or fecal matter are observed. Procedures for fecal matter and dead animals can be found at https://www.ochalthinfo.com/eh/water/pool under Environmental Health Pool Safety, Additional Guidelines.
	Pool Cleanliness	Ensure pool surface, bottom, sides, steps, and tile are clean and free of algae and in good repair.
	Safety Signs	<p>Ensure all the required pool signs are present and in good repair. The following signs are required for all pools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum Occupant Capacity • Artificial Respiration Procedures • Emergency Telephone # (911), the nearest emergency services and the name and street address of the pool facility • Keep Gate Closed • Diarrhea Sign <p>Additional signs may be required. To find all the required signs for your pool facility in the Pool Code, visit https://www.ochalthinfo.com/eh/water/pool under Environmental Health Pool Safety.</p>
	Restrooms and Showers	Restrooms and showers should be clean and in good repair. Sinks and showers shall have a maximum water temperature of 110°F. Soap, paper towels/dryer, and toilet paper must be provided in dispensers.
✓	Operations	
	Responsible Person	Ensure the pool is under the supervision of a person who has assumed responsibility for the pool and is familiar with the operations.
	Test Kit	Each site shall have an approved test kit available for testing water chemistry. The test kit should be capable of measuring pH, the concentration of disinfectant, and when used, cyanuric acid.

For questions on this checklist, please call Environmental Health at (714) 433-6000.