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PUBLIC POOL AND SPA OWNERS - ARE YOU READY FOR POOL SEASON?

All pools and spas are **INSPECTED** and **PERMITTED** by the NMED **annually**

Frequently asked questions about the Inspection and Permitting Process

Q: How do I receive an operating permit?

A: Steps that must be followed to receive an operating permit are listed below.

- 1) Call your local NMED Field Office to schedule an inspection. For a list of NMED offices go to http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/fod/swim_pools/poolcontacts.html.*
- 2) When you call, verify your permit fee amount and let the NMED office know if you need an invoice mailed to you prior to the inspection.*
- 3) You must have a check or money order for the permit fee ready on the date of the inspection. Do NOT mail payment to the NMED. Make the check or money order payable to the “Water Recreation Facilities Fund.”*
- 4) If you pass the inspection the permit fee must be paid before you receive a permit to open the pool. An operating permit will **NOT** be issued until the fee is paid.*

Q: Do I need a certified pool/spa operator? Where can I get my operator certified?

A: You must have a certified pool/spa operator in order to open your pool or spa. See http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/fod/swim_pools/certoperator.html for a list of trainers.

Q: Where can I find the pool rules? Is there a pre-opening checklist I can use?

A: The rules are posted at http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/fod/swim_pools/poolrules.html. A pre-opening checklist is attached to this letter.

Q: What is cryptosporidium? How can I protect my pool against crypto outbreaks?

*A: Cryptosporidium (or “crypto”) is a germ that causes diarrhea. It is spread when someone who has crypto uses your pool. Since it is chlorine-resistant, even well maintained pools can spread crypto. To help prevent the spread of crypto, “**Hyperchlorinate Weekly**” (See http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/pdf/Hyperchlorination_to_kill_Cryptosporidium.pdf)*

Q: What is the federal Virginia Graeme Baker Act? How does it affect my public pool or spa?

*A: This is a **federal** law which requires new drain covers. The law will be enforced by the federal U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC). For details, please go to <http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/vgb/poolspa.aspx> or call (800) 638-2772.*

Attachment A
2008 Pool/Spa Pre-Opening Check List

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL POOLS/SPA

- Barriers (fencing) must be at least four-feet high above grade
- Vacuum outlets must be self-closing
- Spas, hot tubs and wading pools must install pH/ORP controllers
- Certified operator on staff or by contract – 7.18.2.13 NMAC (60 day grace period to get operator certified)

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- Check Lifeguard requirement
- Check Ring Buoys – two or more with ropes of length at least 1.5 times max. pool width
- Check Pole (12 ft.) blunt end or "shepherd's hook"
- Check Lifeline – 2 ft. toward shallow end from break in grade separating shallow from deep end
- Ensure supervision of children by an adult (18 years or older) during operating hours;
- Telephone must be on the premises with emergency numbers posted
- Ladders in the deep end, non-slip hand rails for steps
- Check that self-closing, self-locking doors/gates open outwards from pool, prevent unauthorized access
- Check and Restock First Aid Kit

SIGNAGE

- If no lifeguard present, post: "WARNING -NO LIFEGUARD SERVICE IS PROVIDED. ALL CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 14 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OBSERVER 18 YEARS OR OLDER. IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, CONTACT: ___"
- Post Bather load for pool, bather load for spa
- Post Spa/Bath precaution sign – language specified in 7.18.4.26.D NMAC
- Post Signs that explain proper way to use pool slide or water slide – 7.18.4.26.F NMAC
- Post American Red Cross Resuscitation Chart or equivalent.

WATER SUPPLY & RECIRCULATION

- Check that skimmers work; check skimmer baskets, hair/lint catcher and equalizer valves.
- Check that drains have anti-entrapment covers, unless pool has grates with a flow velocity below 1.5 fps
- Check that filters and the pressure gauge work; check the flow meter and its location;
- Check for min. turnover rates (6-hour for pools, 1-hour for spas built before 3/30/05, and 30-minutes for newly built or remodeled spas);
- Check backwash water disposal; check that backflow is prevented at backwash/drain discharge by air gap
- Check cross connections–vacuum breakers on hose bibs, vacuum line connections, verify air gaps to sewer connection, verify protection of water supply.

WATER QUALITY

- Check if a functional test kit is onsite for chlorine (or bromine), pH, or cyanuric acid (outdoor pools/spas).
- Note the required frequency of water quality testing – 7.18.4.11.L(1) NMAC
- Allowable Regulatory Ranges for Chemicals (7.18.4.11.A NMAC)

Chemical/Parameter	Pools	Spas	Spray pads	Comments
Maximum temperature	104 °F	104 °F	104 °F	
Free available chlorine	1-5 ppm	2-5 ppm	2-5 ppm	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combined chlorine	0.5 ppm max	0.5 ppm max	0.5 ppm max	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total available bromine	2-6 ppm total	2-6 ppm total	4-6 ppm total	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cyanuric acid (stabilizer)	100 ppm max	100 ppm max	100 ppm max	Ideal 30 ppm <i>Prohibited in indoor pools.</i>
pH	7.2 – 7.8	7.2 – 7.8	7.2 –7.8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clarity	Check if drain visible in deepest part	Check if drain visible in deepest part	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Check hookup of disinfectant system and that directions are available to the operator

- ❑ Restock chemicals for the chemical test kit, and avoid exposure to sun.
- ❑ Note that hand dosing of disinfectant is prohibited, except to super-chlorinate (“shock”).
- ❑ Note that Spas must be drained and refilled every 30 days per 7.18.4.11.G NMAC

PHYSICAL/STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS

- ❑ Check Ventilation – minimum 4 air changes/hour
- ❑ Check that handrails, steps, and ladders are securely fastened
- ❑ Check that spa jet timer is at least 6-feet from edge of the tub and does not exceed 15 minutes
- ❑ Verify slope of pool wall to pool base (measure depth at wall and at end of curve of pool)
- ❑ Verify that depth markings are in contrasting colors, at least 4” high on wall and runway, and spaced at every 15 feet maximum or every one foot depth change
- ❑ Check slope of deck to drains (use level), verify that runways are clear of deck furniture
- ❑ Eliminate hazards - toe stubbers, head bashers, foot cutters, exposed electric wires and chemicals, etc;

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM (“CRYPTO”) CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ Go to http://www.cdc.gov/crypto/pdfs/core_guidelines.pdf for CDC’s guidelines
- ❑ Consider adding supplemental disinfection (e.g., UV system or ozonation)
- ❑ Consider regular hyperchlorination (e.g., weekly) at levels known to kill Crypto. Hyperchlorination levels are found at http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/pdf/Hyperchlorination_to_kill_Cryptosporidium.pdf
- ❑ Implement and enforce diarrhea-exclusion policies for bathers
- ❑ Consider adding supplemental disinfection (uv system or ozonation)