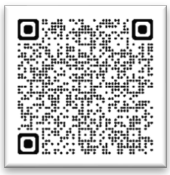
COBB & DOUGLAS PUBLIC HEALTH

GUIDE TO PREPARING A SWIMMING POOL FOR AN OPENING INSPECTION

1. Mail your annual inspection fee payment to Cobb Public Health or Douglas Public Health, Center for Environmental Health. If the pool's name, owner, or billing information has changed, complete a new swimming pool operational permit application and include it with your payment. This application may be obtained here:



Note: Pool inspection fee invoices are typically mailed out by the end of December and should be received no later than January 10. If you have not received your invoice by then, please contact the appropriate Environmental Health office (Cobb: (770) 435-7815/ Douglas: (770) 920-7311) for assistance.

2. Assure that the person overseeing the opening of the pool has a current certificate showing the completion of a department approved pool operator training course. This person may be on-site or a contract service provider. View course options here:

3. Remove the cover from the pool and clean any leaves and debris from the pool and the skimmers.

4. Inspect the pumps, filters, chlorinator, and the flow meter on the return line and ensure that they are in good condition and functioning properly. The sand in the filters may require changing if it is excessively dirty or has hardened in the filter over the course of the winter.

5. Check the skimmers to ensure that they are all free flowing and have functional weirs. If your skimmers have equalizer lines, inspect their check valves and float valves to assure that they are installed correctly and are in good working condition.

6. Evaluate the suction outlet covers (i.e. main drain and equalizer line covers) to ensure that they are in good condition. Replace any missing or broken suction outlet covers. These covers must also be replaced if they have exceeded the lifespan stamped on the cover (typically 3 – 10 years).

7. Once the pool has been cleaned and the recirculation and filtration systems are working properly, begin treating the water and adjusting the chemicals. It may take several weeks to a month before the water is properly balanced.

8. If the emergency telephone was disconnected during the winter, contact your phone service provider and restore the service. Make sure that the telephone is in good working condition and replace it if it is not working properly. Verify that accurate location information is conveyed to the 911 operator when a call is made to them.

9. Install and securely tighten all ladders and handrails. Check the bottom ends of the ladders to ensure that the rubber boot caps are installed. (This prevents the ladder from etching into the shell of the pool.)

10. Check to see if water fountains, showers and other water fixtures are working properly and free of leaks.

11. Check fences and gates for damage and defects. The gates must be self-closing and self-latching, and any damage to the fence must be repaired.

12. Clean bathhouse facilities and stock them with toilet paper, soap, and paper towels. Provide trash containers inside each restroom facility.

13. Assure that the following signage is posted:

- Pool rules (in minimum 1-inch letters) posted at or near the pool's entrance that state the following under the heading of **"Pool Risks"**:

    - Shower before entering the pool.
    - Children shall not use pool without an adult in attendance.
    - Adults shall not swim alone.
    - All children three years old and younger and any child not potty-trained must wear snug fitting plastic pants or a water-resistant swim diaper.
    - Do not swim if the suction outlets are missing, broken, or not clearly visible from the deck.
    - No glass articles allowed in or around pool.
    - Do not swallow the pool water.
    - Do not dive unless diving area is clear of other bathers. (**Note:** *If the swimming pool is 5 feet or less in depth, we recommend changing this rule to* "No diving allowed.")
    - Do not swim if you had diarrhea within the past two weeks.
    - No animals are allowed in the pool or pool enclosure, except service animals are allowed on the deck.

- A sign stating "**EMERGENCY 911**" posted at the telephone.

- A sign stating the pool's hours of operation posted at or near the pool's entrance.
- A sign stating the pool's bathing load in at least 4-inch letters posted at or near the pool's entrance.

FOR POOLS WHERE THESE CONDITIONS ARE APPLICABLE:

Where lifeguards are not provided or at lifeguarded pools with "swim at your own risk" periods:

- Signs shall be posted in a conspicuous location at or near the pool entrance that state in at least four inches (4") high letters, "**WARNING – NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY**" and "**RISK OF DROWNING – SUPERVISE CHILDREN CLOSELY**. These two statements may be combined onto a single sign.

If the pool is a spa/whirlpool:

- Rules shall be posted at or near the spa that state the following:
    - Risk of Fetus Damage. Hot water exposure limitations vary from person to person. Pregnant women and small children should not use spa without medical approval.
    - Risk of Drowning. Other persons suffering from heart disease, diabetes, high or low blood pressure, and other health problems should not enter the spa without medical approval.
    - Risk of Drowning. Do not use the spa while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, or drugs that cause sleepiness and drowsiness or raise/lower blood pressure.
    - Risk of Drowning. Use caution when bathing alone. Overexposure to hot water may cause nausea, dizziness, and fainting. Lower water temperatures are recommended for young children and for extended use (more than10-15 minutes).
    - Risk of Drowning. Do not use or operate spa if the suction fitting is missing, broken, or loose.
    - Risk of Child Drowning. Unsupervised use by children is prohibited. Children under five shall not use the spa.
    - Risk of Injury. Check spa temperature before entering. The spa temperature should not exceed 104°F.
    - Risk of Injury. Enter and exit slowly.
    - Risk of Injury. Keep all glass and breakable objects out of the spa area.
    - Risk of Shock. Never place electrical appliances (telephone, radio, or televisions) within five feet of the spa.

14. Install safety equipment at the pool. This includes, but is not limited to:

- A shepherd's hook attached to a strong pole that's at least 12-foot in length
- A U.S. Coast Guard approved throwing buoy with a minimum 1/4" diameter line attached that is 1 ½ times the width of the pool or 50 ft., whichever is less
- A float line installed at the slope break, for pools greater than 5 feet deep
- A 2-inch contrasting strip/tile line on the top front edge of each step, bench, or tanning shelf
- Depth markers indicated in feet on both the tile line and deck surface at the shallow end, the slope break, deep end, and other required intervals.
- "No Diving" marked on the deck in conjunction with depth markers at pool depths of 5 ft. or less

15. Test the pool chemicals with a DPD type pool test kit and adjust the chemicals to the proper levels:

- Minimum chlorine residual (unstabilized/no cyanuric acid used):
    - Standard pool: 1 ppm
    - Spa: 3 ppm
    - All other pool types (wading, spray pad, interactive, water attractions): 2 ppm.
- Minimum chlorine residual (stabilized/uses cyanuric acid):
    - Standard pool: 2 ppm
    - Spa: 3 ppm
    - All other pool types (wading, spray pad, interactive, water attractions): 2 ppm.
- Maximum chlorine residual (stabilized or unstabilized):

    - All pools: 10 ppm
- Minimum bromine residual:
    - Pool: 3 ppm
    - Spa: 4 ppm
- Maximum bromine residual:
    - All pools: 8 ppm
- Cyanuric Acid (if used)
    - 0 – 90 ppm
- pH range
    - 7.2 – 7.8

16. Call the Center for Environmental Health to schedule an inspection.
(Cobb: (770) 435-7815/ Douglas: (770) 920-7311)

17. If the pool does not pass the initial inspection, correct the violations noted on the inspection and schedule a re-inspection. The pool may open only *after* passing an inspection.