



NEWS SPLASH

Spring 2021

Steps to Take Before Reopening Your Pool or Spa

All Water Recreation Facilities are required to have a current permit, even if they will not open this year. Permit renewal notices are mailed in late April. Permits are valid from June 1 to May 31. If your renewal is for a "not in use" operating permit (\$172) but you want to use the pool, do not pay this renewal. Contact us at KCPoolPlans@kingcounty.gov or contact a pool plan reviewer at 206-263-5966 for details. You will need to demonstrate compliance and then be issued a renewal application for a regular operating permit.

If your facility has been closed for a long time, you may need to take special steps to make sure the facility can open safely. Stagnant water lines can allow growth of organisms like Legionella. See the CDC [reopening guidance on reopening after prolonged closure](#).

It is important that we all continue to do our part to protect everyone from [COVID-19](#), as restrictions are reduced. Please follow the Governor's [Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recovery](#), and [Health Officer orders](#). Maintain physical distance from others to slow the spread of the virus and preserve the health care system's capacity to treat people at highest need.

Per the Governor's announced changes that went into effect March 22, 2021, most swimming pools, spas, wading pools and splash pads can now open, even in phase 1 and phase 2, when following the applicable guidance from Washington State Department of Health. Waterparks, standalone splash parks, recreational water contact facilities and activity pool play features will not be able to open during phase 1.

No water recreation facility may operate until it can meet and maintain all the requirements in the Washington State Department of Health reopening guidance, including providing materials, schedules, equipment and monitoring personnel required to comply.

See the Washington State Department of Health reopening guidance on what will be necessary to [reopen in Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3; updated March 22, 2021](#). Begin by planning for facility and employee safety measures, physical distancing, personal hygiene, environmental hygiene, limiting access to facility, and where applicable, revised lifeguarding plans.

VGB Compliance Plan Review and Drain Cover Replacement

Has your pool completed plan review for compliance with the federal Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB)? Not sure? Go to our online portal www.kingcounty.gov/health/portal, select **View permit status** and find the PR record for your pool or spa. Check the [Details](#) for a [Pool Data Form](#) and [Drain cover updates](#). No pool data form means plan review has not been completed.

Completing VGB plan review for your pool or spa doesn't mean you can forget about your drain covers. The covers must be checked routinely to make sure they remain securely attached and intact. All parts used must be from the manufacturer, including screws. If a safety vacuum relief system (SVRS) was required as part of VGB compliance, the SVRS system must be in operation at all times and tested at least every 6 months. Document testing on your daily log sheet.

All drain covers have an expiration date for parts that must be replaced prior to expiration. Replacement documentation should be submitted to us through the online portal in the [Details](#) section (see above). If significant changes are made, plan review may be required. We recommend you work with an experienced pool company to complete plan review or replace covers.

Making Other Pool Changes

All the original equipment in your pump room was selected for your pool or spa by a design engineer. When a pump, filter or other equipment is replaced or added, it is critical that the equipment is properly sized and meets regulation requirements for your pool. We

recommend you work with an experienced pool company when making these changes. Other pool changes include barrier and restroom modifications. Regardless of the change, it is important that we be notified prior to making the change. Some changes will require formal plan review. Other changes can be addressed with a pool data form update. Questions? Call 206-263-9566 and ask to speak to a pool plan reviewer.

Have a Safe Year at Your Pool

If your pool is required to be lifeguarded be sure there are always an adequate number of lifeguards on duty that have all the required training.

If your pool is not required to be lifeguarded and no lifeguards are provided, you are required to provide notifications to inform adults of the oversight requirements for pool users less than 18 years of age. You must provide the notification prior to first use of the pool and at least annually.

The notification needs to inform the users –

- Children 12 years old or younger must be accompanied by a responsible adult that remains at the pool or pool deck at all times.
- 13 to 17 year olds are required to have at least one other person present at the pool.

Depending on the type of facility, options include providing initial notification along with a copy of pool rules at the time of check in or during lease or membership signing. Hotels, motels, apartments, condominiums, fraternities, sororities, home owners associations and mobile home parks are examples of facilities required to provide this notification except when pools are lifeguarded.

Conditions That Require Actions by Your Facility to Keep Your Pool Safe and Avoid a Closure Plus Reinspection by Public Health Include:

- If water clarity or water quality is outside the free chlorine and combined chlorine or bromine, pH, water clarity, cyanuric acid or temperature range listed in Tables 111.1 or 111.2, the facility must close until water clarity and quality is restored to the acceptable range. (See specifics in tables.)
- If submerged suction main drain or equalizer outlet covers are broken, missing, or not secure, the facility must close until covers are properly installed.
- If the filtration or disinfectant equipment is not functioning, the facility must close until the problem is corrected.
- If the recirculation pump or overflow system (skimmers or gutters) is not working, the facility must close until the system is repaired.
- If a barrier gate or door in a non-lifeguarded pool is not properly self-closing and self-latching, the gate or door must be fixed immediately or locked until it is working properly.
- If required lifeguards or attendants are not present, the facility must be closed.

Table 111.1

Minimum and Maximum Levels of Disinfectant (ppm)*	
Swimming Pool***	Minimum
Chlorine	1.5
Chlorine with cyanurate compound	2.0
Bromine	2.5
Spa & Wading Pool***	Minimum**
Chlorine	3.0
Chlorine with cyanurate compound	3.5
Bromine	4.0

*Chlorine is measured as free available chlorine residual.

*Recirculating spray pools shall meet spa and wading pool levels.

***The maximum disinfectant level shall conform with manufacturers' recommendations and shall not exceed 10 ppm for any pool

Table 111.2

Acceptable Ranges of Selected Chemical and Physical Water Quality Constituents		
Chemical or Physical Constituent	Minimum	Maximum
pH (hydrogen ion)	7.2	8.0
Water Clarity (safety)	Main drain and pool bottom visible at all times	
Turbidity (shielding microorganisms T.U.)*		0.5
Cyanuric acid or its derivatives	0 (Optimum levels 30-50 ppm)	
Temperature**		104 F
Ozone***		0.05
Ionizers (Copper/Silver)		1.0/0.05

*In peak periods, turbidity may increase to 1.0 T.U. provided returns to 0.5 T.U. within a six-hour period following peak use. Turbidity is not a required routine analysis. The local health officer may require turbidity monitoring if special conditions warrant.

**A pool facility thermometer shall be provided when the water temperature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

***Atmospheric measurement.