

Clayton County Environmental Health Public Swimming Pool Program

Clayton County Board of Health Swimming Pool Regulations

Section -.10 Return Inlets and Suction Outlets.

- (1) **Location:** Return inlet(s) and suction outlet(s) shall be provided and arranged to produce a uniform circulation of water and maintain a uniform disinfectant residual throughout the pool or spa. Where skimmers are used, the return inlet(s) shall be located so as to help bring floating particles within range of the skimmers.
 - (a) A swimming pool shall have a minimum of two (2) return inlets regardless of pool size. The number of return inlets shall be based on two (2) inlets per six hundred (600) square feet of pool surface area or one inlet every fifteen feet of perimeter or fraction thereof, whichever is greater. Return inlet(s) from the circulation system shall be designed so as not to constitute a hazard to the user.
 - (b) All pools shall be provided with at least two main drain suction outlets in the lowest point of the pool floor. The spacing of the main drains shall be at least five feet (5'), but not greater than twenty feet (20') on centers nor more than fifteen feet (15') from each side wall.
 - (c) All spas shall have a minimum of two (2) suction outlets provided for each pump in the suction outlet system. Separated by a minimum of three feet (3') or located on two (2) different planes; i.e. one (1) on the bottom and one (1) on the vertical wall or one (1) each on two (2) separate vertical walls. These suction outlets shall be plumbed such that water is drawn through them simultaneously through a common line to the pump.
- (2) Suction outlets shall be provided with a cover that has been tested and approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory and comply with ANSI/ASME A112.19.8M-1987, Suction Fittings For Use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs and Whirlpool Bathtub Appliances.
- (3) Net openings in each floor outlet covering or grating shall be at least four times the area of the discharge pipe and provide sufficient area so that the maximum velocity of the water passing the grate will not exceed one and one-half feet per second (1½fps).
 - (a) The width of openings in grating shall be not less than one eighth inch (1/8") and not more than one half inch (½").
 - (b) The pool or spa shall not be operated if the outlet grate is missing, broken or secured in such a way that it can be removed without the use of tools.

- (4) **Entrapment Avoidance:** If the suction outlet system, such as a filtration system, booster system, automatic cleaning system, solar system, etc., has a single suction outlet, or multiple suction outlets which can be isolated, each suction outlet shall protect against user entrapment by as many of the following as necessary.
- (a) An anti-entrapment device installed immediately upstream of the pump,
 - (b) An anti-vortex cover,
 - (c) A twelve inch by twelve inch (12"x 12") grate or larger.
 - (d) Other means.
- (5) Where provided, the vacuum cleaner fitting(s) shall be located in an accessible position(s) at least six inches (6") and no greater than eighteen inches (18") below the minimum operating water level or as an attachment to the skimmer(s).