

# Clayton County Environmental Health Public Swimming Pool Program

## Clayton County Board of Health Swimming Pool Regulations

### Section -.18 Specific Safety Features.

- (1) **Handholds:** A public pool shall be provided with a suitable handhold around its perimeter in areas where depths exceed three feet six inches (3'6"). Handholds shall be provided no further apart than four feet (4') and shall consist of any one (1) or a combination of the items listed below:
  - (a) Coping, ledge or deck along the immediate top edge of the pool which provides a slip-resisting surface of at least four inches (4") minimum horizontal width and located at or not more than twelve inches (12") above the waterline; or
  - (b) Ladders, stairs or seat ledges; or
  - (c) A railing placed at or not more than twelve inches (12") above the waterline.
- (2) **Rope and Float Line:** A rope and float line shall be provided within one foot (1') of and on the shallow side of the break in grade between the shallow and deep portions of the swimming pool, with its position marked with visible floats at not greater than seven foot (7') intervals.
  - (a) The rope and float line shall be securely fastened to wall anchors of corrosion-resisting materials and of the type which shall be recessed or have no projection that will constitute a hazard when the line is removed.
  - (b) The line shall be of sufficient size and strength to offer a good handhold and support loads normally imposed by users.
- (3) **Depth Markers for Swimming Pools:** Depth of water in feet shall be plainly and conspicuously marked at or above the waterline on the vertical pool wall and on the top of the coping or edge of the deck or walk next to the pool. The word or abbreviation for "feet" must be specified.
  - (a) Depth markers on the vertical pool wall shall be positioned to be read from the water side.
  - (b) Depth markers on the deck shall be within eighteen inches (18") of the water edge and positioned to be read while standing on the deck facing the water.
  - (c) Depth markers shall be slip-resisting.

- (d) Depth markers shall be installed at the maximum and minimum water depths and at all points of slope change.
  - (e) Depth markers shall be installed at intermediate increments of water depth not to exceed two feet (2'), nor spaced at distances greater than twenty-five foot (25') intervals.
  - (f) Depth markers shall be arranged uniformly on both sides and both ends of the pool.
  - (g) Depth markers on irregularly shaped pools shall designate depths at all major deviations in shape as well as conform to the foregoing articles.
  - (h) Depth markers shall have a four inch (4") minimum height. Numbers shall be of contrasting color to the background on which they are applied, and the color shall be of a permanent nature.
- (4) **Depth Markers for Spas:** Public spas shall have permanent depth markers with numbers a minimum of four inches (4") high plainly and conspicuously visible from all obvious points of entry and in conformance with (a) thru (f) below and be in accordance with ANSI/UL 969 "Marking and Labeling Apparatus".
- (a) There shall be a minimum of two depth markers per spa, regardless of spa size or shape.
  - (b) Depth markers shall be spaced at no more than twenty-five feet (25') intervals and shall be uniformly located around the perimeter of the spa.
  - (c) Spas shall have the maximum water depth clearly marked on the deck wall.
  - (d) Depth markers shall be positioned on the deck within eighteen inches (18") of the water line.
  - (e) Depth markers shall be positioned to be read while standing on the deck facing the water.
  - (f) Depth markers in or on the deck surfaces shall be slip-resisting.
- (5) **Clock:** All public facilities shall have a clock which is visible to spa users.
- (6) **Water Temperature:** The maximum temperature in a spa shall not exceed 104<sup>0</sup>F (40<sup>0</sup>C).
- (a) The spa operator shall be provided with an accurate thermometer ( ±1<sup>0</sup>F tolerance) and shall periodically check to ensure that the maximum temperature does not exceed 104<sup>0</sup>F.

- (b) A means to determine the spa temperature with a  $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{F}$  tolerance shall be provided to the user.
- (7) **Lifeguards:** All owners, managers, or lifeguards, if provided, in charge of, or working at, public swimming pools, spas or recreational water parks shall be responsible for the supervision and safety of the pool, spa or recreational water park.
- (a) If lifeguards and safety assistants are provided, they shall be qualified as lifeguards by holding current, nationally recognized certifications in Lifeguarding, Adult/child/infant CPR and First Aid.
  - (b) If lifeguards are provided, their lifeguard certification, CPR and first aid certificates or photocopies thereof shall be maintained at the facility and be available to the local health authority for inspection.
- (8) **Lifesaving Equipment:** All public swimming pools shall have lifesaving equipment conspicuously and conveniently on hand at all times. Lifesaving equipment for special purpose pools may be exempted from this requirement or the requirements will be provided as deemed necessary by Health Authority. The following will be provided:
- (a) A light, strong pole not less than twelve feet (12') long, including a body hook shall be provided.
  - (b) A minimum one-fourth inch (1/4") diameter throwing rope as long as one and one-half (1 1/2) times the maximum width of the pool or fifty feet (50'), whichever is less, to which has been firmly attached a ring buoy with an outside diameter of approximately fifteen inches (15") or a similar flotation device which is U.S. Coast Guard approved, shall be provided.
  - (c) A telephone which is hard wired and affixed, with posted names and phone numbers of the nearest available police, fire, ambulance service and/or rescue unit, and /or 911, if available.
- (9) **Barriers:** All outdoor swimming pools and spas shall be provided with a barrier.
- (a) The top of the barrier shall be at least 48" above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4" measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an above-ground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches.
  - (b) Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4" diameter sphere.

- (c) Solid barriers which do not have openings such as a masonry or stone wall, shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.
- (d) Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches, the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1 1/4 inches in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 1/4 inches in width.
- (e) Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 1/4 inches in width.
- (f) Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 1 1/4 inch square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to no more than 1 1/4 inches.
- (g) Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be no more than 1 1/4 inches.
- (h) Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Rule .18(9)(a) thru (g) also and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, (a) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate and (b) the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than 1/2 inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.
- (i) There shall not be direct access from any dwelling into the pool enclosure.
- (j) Where an above-ground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure and the means of access is a ladder or steps then (a) the ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access or (b) the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of this section. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4 inch diameter sphere.
- (k) Barriers shall be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers.

- (l) A spa with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F1346, "Performance Specification for Safety Covers and Labeling Requirements for All Covers for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs" shall be exempt from the provisions of this section. Swimming pools with safety covers shall not be exempt from the provisions of this document.

(10) **Warning/Safety Signs For Swimming Pools:** Signs shall be provided as follows:

- (a) The words "No Diving" shall be permanently visible at the edge of the deck for water 5 feet or less. Placement should conform to that outlined for depth markers in Rule .18 (3)(a) thru (h).
- (b) Where no lifeguard is on duty, a sign shall be placed in clear view at or near the entrance to the pool and shall state in clearly legible letters at least four inches high "WARNING - NO LIFE GUARD ON DUTY".
- (c) The same sign in (b) or an additional sign will state the following rules in clearly legible letters at least two (2) inches high:
  - 1. Unattended solo bathing is prohibited.
  - 2. Children shall not use pool without an adult in attendance.
  - 3. No glass articles allowed in or around pool.
  - 4. No food, drink or wrappers shall be permitted within ten (10) feet of the swimming pool or spa.
  - 5. No running or rough play allowed.
  - 6. No spitting, spouting of water or blowing nose in pool.
  - 7. No "cut-offs" or "exposed" diapers allowed.
  - 8. Only one bather at a time allowed on diving board.
  - 9. Diving area must be clear of other patrons before diving is permitted.
  - 10. No swimming allowed during heavy rain or when thunder and lightening can be seen or heard.

(11) **Warning/Safety Signs For Spas:** Signs shall be provided as follows:

- (a) Signage which states safety, emergency and operational aspects of the spa, shall be prominently located. As a guide, for the language and layout of the safety signs reference ANSI Z 535 series of standards for Safety Signs and Colors and

ANSI/UL 1563 1987 "Standards for Electric Hot Tubs, and Associated Equipment".

- (b) Warning/Safety signs for spas shall be in clear view of the spa and prominently displayed. Signs shall state the spa's address, the location of the nearest telephone with references that emergency telephone numbers are posted at the location. These emergency telephone numbers should include the name and phone number of the nearest available police, fire, ambulance service and/or "911", if available. Signs shall include, but not be limited to the following messages.
1. Risk of Fetus Damage - Hot water exposure limitations vary from person to person. Pregnant women and small children should not use spa prior to medical consultation.
  2. 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 prior medical consultation and permission from their doctor.
  3. Risk of Drowning - Do not use the spa while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics or other drugs that cause sleepiness, drowsiness or raise/lower blood pressure.
  4. Risk of Drowning - Use caution when bathing alone. Overexposure to hot water may cause nausea, dizziness and fainting. Lower water temperatures are recommended for extended use (exceeding 10-15 minutes) and for young children.
  5. Risk of Drowning - Do not allow the use of or operate spa if the suction fitting is missing, broken or loose.
  6. Risk of Child Drowning - Unsupervised use by children is prohibited.
  7. Risk of Injury - Before entering, check spa temperature before each use. The spa temperature should not exceed 104<sup>0</sup>F.
  8. Risk of Injury - Enter and exit slowly.
  9. Risk of Injury - Keep all breakable objects out of the spa area.
  10. Risk of Shock - Never place electrical appliances (telephone, radio, TV, etc.) within five feet (5') of the spa.
  11. Risk of Shock - The spa shall not be operated during severe weather conditions, i.e. electrical storms, tornadoes, etc.

- (12) In all swimming pools built prior to December 31, 2000 which have floor slopes greater than that allowed in this chapter of which have other construction variance to this chapter, the health authority may require a warning sign stating the possible hazard, to be posted in public view.
- (13) **Obstructions and Entrapment Avoidance:** There shall be no obstructions that can cause the user to be entrapped or injured. Types of entrapment can include but not be limited to such things as wedge or pinch-type openings and rigid, nongiving cantilevered protrusions.
- (14) No less than one (1) drinking fountain shall be provided and available to users at the pool site.
- (15) A minimum of one (1) rinse shower shall be provided on the pool deck of all public pools and spas with bather loads of 50 or less. An additional rinse shower shall be provided for each additional one hundred (100) bathers.