

Mecklenburg County Public Health Swimming Pool Operating Permit Checklist

**** If any items on this list are incorrect, do not issue a permit. ****

ALL items must be correct in order to issue the operating permit. This list does not include 4-point demerit items for fencing or 2-point demerit items that may be points taken but no permit action.

Water Quality

- Disinfectant* – Chlorine must be at least 1.0 ppm for pools. Bromine must be at least 2.0 ppm.
 - Operator cannot correct by adding granular chlorine directly to the pool. Must be corrected through the chlorinator.*
- pH* – Maintained within 7.2 to 7.8.
- Cyanuric Acid* – Maintained below 100 ppm.
- Water Clarity* – Pool floor and main drains must be clearly visible.
 - Can you see the screws in the main drains?
- Temperature* (heated) – Maximum temperature = 90°
- Record Books* – A log book must be present. Operator may or may not have records depending on how long the pool has been open.
 - Chlorine, pH, Drain/Equalizer checks, and temperature (if applicable) shall be daily.
 - Cyanuric Acid and Total Alkalinity shall be weekly. Record adjustments, closures and general maintenance performed.
- Test Kit* – Provided with test reagents that are not expired. Shall be able to test for chlorine, pH, cyanuric acid and total alkalinity.

Drain Covers – Main Drains and Skimmer Equalizer Lines

- Pool Drain Safety Compliance (PDSC) Form* – Submitted with accurate information and approved. See field book or spreadsheet to verify approval.
- Suction Outlets* – All expired covers have been replaced with approved covers and information updated. See spreadsheet to verify.
 - No recalled covers.
 - All drain and equalizer line covers must be in place, secure and in good repair.
 - No protrusions greater than 2” from pool wall.
 - No Paramount or Hayward covers on the pool wall for equalizers. Sumpless covers only or approved with sump dimensions given.
 - If skimmers are plugged, must be either plugged or plastered on the wall and also in the equalizer line inside the skimmer under the basket

Pool Maintenance

- Certified Pool Operator* – Daily visits and record keeping.
- Suction Vacuum Release System (SVRS)* – For single main drains or drains less than 3 ft. apart measured on center.
 - Will be located either on the wall or on the main drain line in the pump room. See SVRS guide provided.
 - If required, must be in good working order and indicated on PDSC form.
- Vacuum Fittings* – Vacuum ports must have a secured cap or self-closing, self-latching cap.

Pool Maintenance (cont.)

- *Skimmers* –
 - All weirs in place and baskets in good repair.
 - Skimmer lids in good repair with no cracks or damage.
- *Pool Floors and Walls* – Must be clean and in good repair. Will chipped plaster cut?
 - Plaster shall not be dark as stated in Rule .2514.
- *Depth Markers* – 4” in height for numbers and letters. Markers shall be no greater than 25 ft. apart, in good repair and legible.
 - Measure depth markers around the perimeter of the swimming pool as close to edge of pool as possible.
 - Located at point of maximum and minimum depth and both ends of pool; located at the transition point and where diving occurs.
- *No Diving Markers* – 4” in height for lettering or red and black international No Diving. No greater than 25 ft. apart.
 - Can be measured “as the crow flies”, in good repair and legible.
- *Inlets and Fittings* – Must be in good repair and in place. Floor inlets must have at least ½ of screws in place.
- *Contrasting Color Bands* – Must be in good repair; 2” wide contrasting color band to edge of step or 2”x 2” tile no greater than 1” from step edge and pool wall. See Rule .2521.
- *Breakpoint* – Pools greater than 5 feet in depth.
 - *Safety Rope* – ¾” safety rope provided at breakpoint for pools greater than 5 ft. Rope shall have colored floats not greater than five feet between.
 - 2” wide contrasting color band across the pool bottom.

Premises and Safety

- *Safety Equipment* –
 - Body hook on a *non-collapsible* pole a minimum of 12 ft. in length, securely attached and in good repair.
 - USCG approved ring buoy in good repair with required rope length.
 - Pools greater than 3000 sq. ft. must have two sets of safety equipment.
- ** Lifeguards with lifeguard tubes may replace ring buoys but not body hooks.
- *Signage* – Must be in good repair and visible upon entrance to the pool.
 - “WARNING – NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY” in a minimum height of 4” – exact wording required.
 - “ADULTS SHOULD NOT SWIM ALONE.” in a minimum height of 1” – exact wording required.
 - “CHILDREN SHOULD NOT USE THE SWIMMING POOL WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION.” in a minimum height of 1” – exact wording required.
 - Sign prohibiting pets and glass in pool area – no size or language restriction.
 - Shower sign instructing users to shower before entering pool – no size or language restriction.

**Assure that all lettering including lowercase letters meet size requirements.

Premises and Safety (cont.)

- *Emergency Phone* – Provide a designated line. Must connect to 911.
 - 911 must have the correct location information and phone number for the pool. Verify in field book that address is correct.
 - A sign with dialing instructions and pool information detailing the pool address and phone number must be posted at the pool phone.
 - Kings III phones – connect to 911 and verify with 911.
- *Decks* – Maintain 6 ft. clearance around pool – 8 ft. for pools > 1600 sq. ft.; no trip hazards present (> ½” protrusions or offsets).
 - Decks must be slip-resistant.
 - Over the rim fill spouts – no greater than 6” from ladder handrails or must be directly under diving boards.
- *Lighting* – Inspector will verify lighting if pool is applying for Night Swimming
 - Pools that operate at night must have operating lights inside the pool so that main drains and all areas inside the pool are clearly illuminated.
 - Sufficient lighting on pool deck at night to assure all parts of the pool, the water, the depth markers, signs, entrances, restrooms, safety equipment and the required deck area and walkways are illuminated.
 - Underwater light niches shall be maintained or covered so not to present a health hazard - > ½” openings.

Barrier - Fence and Gate Requirements

- Pools Built Post-2010
 - Shall be at least 48” in height measured from the outside of the fence from ground.
 - Distance between vertical members – 4” or less.
 - Distance from bottom horizontal measured to next horizontal must be 45” or greater.
 - Chain Link Fence – Mesh size must be 2.25” square.
 - Footholds – Anything located on the gate/fence or directly outside the gate/fence less than 45” that someone can stand on to get over the fence (>1/2” protrusions). I.e. Cable boxes, electrical conduit boxes, etc.
 - Distance Under Fence – measured from the outside of the fence - 2” or less.
 - Decorative cut-outs shall not exceed 1.75” in width.
- Gates – Regardless of Construction Date
 - Shall be at least 48” in height measured from the outside of the fence from ground.
 - Distance between vertical members – 4” or less.
 - Distance from bottom horizontal measured to next horizontal must be 45” or greater. Pools built prior to 2010, distance may be between 30” and 45”
 - Shall swing away from the pool.
 - Decorative cut-outs shall not exceed 1.75” in width.
 - Must be self-latching, self-closing.
 - Gates built prior to 2010, may swing towards the pool where topography, landscape or emergency egress may prevent the gate from swinging away from the pool.

Barrier - Fence and Gate Requirements (cont.)

- Gate Latches – Regardless of Construction Date
 - 54” measured from ground to bottom of latch;
 - If self-latching device is less than 54”, the latch shall be located on the inside of the gate at least 3” below the top of the gate with no greater than ½” within 18” of the latch mechanism (mesh – ½” x ½” or less required); or
 - Use of combination or card reader. No height requirement for electronic systems.
- Doors – Regardless of Construction Date
 - Doors leading on to pool deck must be self-latching, self-closing or protected by audible alarm.
- Windows – Regardless of Construction Date
 - Ground level windows shall be protected by audible alarm or may not open greater than 4” on to pool deck.

Equipment Room

- Chemical Feeders* – NSF approved and in good working order.
 - Liquid feeder shall be verified during inspection. Chlorinator and/or acid feeder shall detect flow of water and turn off when no water flowing through the pump.
 - If salt water pool – shall have a back-up chlorinator.
- Pump* – Operational and matches what is on PDSC form.
 - Extra basket for pump provided.
- Filter and Recirculation* –
 - No large leaks. Equipment functioning properly.
 - Pressure gauge operating properly and shows pressure reading.
 - Cartridge filters shall have additional cartridge available.
- Flow Meter* – Must be operating properly and located on the return line.

Imminent Hazards

- No exposed chlorine or chemicals in skimmers.
- No electrical hazards on or near deck.
- No broken glass.

Lifeguards – Per Mecklenburg Co. Local Ordinance

Pools with depth five feet or less at the following locations require a lifeguard or other person trained in lifesaving techniques unless variance granted by the County.

- Any pool operated by a municipality, community organization, neighborhood association, school, college, university, athletic club, institutional facility, country club or similar facility.

The above listed pools with depth greater than five feet require a lifeguard at ALL times unless a variance has been granted by the County.

Pools that do NOT require a lifeguard – hotel, motel, apartment complex, condominium owners association or similar facility, and public spas.