

POOL AND SPA

Frequently Asked Questions

Pool Enclosures

California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Section 3118 B

What are the requirements for enclosing a pool?

The pool shall be enclosed by one or a combination of one of the following: a fence, portion of a building, wall or other approved durable enclosure. Doors, openable windows, or gates of living quarters or associated private premises shall not be permitted as part of the pool enclosure. The enclosure, doors and gates shall meet all of the following specifications:

- The enclosure shall have a minimum effective perpendicular height of 5 feet as measured from the outside.
- Openings, holes or gaps in the enclosure, doors and/or gates shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere. The bottom of the enclosure shall be within 2-inches of the finished grade.
- The enclosure shall be designed and constructed so that it cannot be readily climbed by small children. Horizontal and diagonal member designs, which might serve as a ladder for small children, are prohibited. Horizontal members shall be spaced at least 48-inches apart. Planters or other structures shall not be permitted to encroach upon the clear span area. Chain link may be used provided that the openings are not greater than 1 ¾ inches measured horizontally.

What is allowed regarding gates for my enclosure?

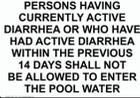
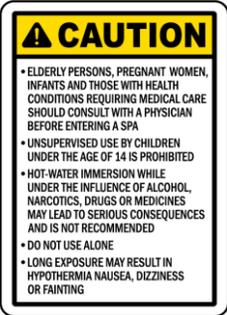
- Gates and doors shall be equipped with self-closing and self-latching devices. The self-latching device shall be designed to keep the gate or door securely closed. Gates and doors shall open outward away from the pool except where otherwise prohibited by law. Hand activated door or gate opening hardware shall be located at least 3 ½ feet above the deck or walkway. *EXCEPTION: Doors leading from areas of hotels and motels, as defined in the Business and Professions Code Section 25503.16(b), which are open to the general public, e.g., restaurants, lobbies, bars, meeting rooms, and retail shops need not be self-latching.*
- Gates and doors shall be capable of being locked during times when the pool is closed.
- The pool enclosure shall have at least one means of egress without a key for emergency purposes. Unless all gates or doors are so equipped, those gates and/or doors which will allow egress without a key shall be clearly and conspicuously labeled in letters at least 4-inches high "EMERGENCY EXIT".
- The enclosure shall be designed and constructed so that all persons will be required to pass through common pool enclosure gates or doors in order to gain access to the pool area. All gates and doors exiting the pool area shall open into a public area or walkway accessible by all patrons of the pool.

Public Pool and Spa Signs

California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2, Volume 2 of the 2010 CA Building Code

Please review the following chart for specific required signs:

All signs shall have clearly legible letter or numbers no less than 4 inches (102 mm) high *unless otherwise required*.

SIGN	LOCATION	REQUIRED FOR:	EXAMPLES:
<p>POOL CAPACITY: A sign shall indicate the maximum number of pool users permitted for each pool. Capacity for a spa pool is based on one person per every 10 ft² of spa pool water surface area. Capacity for all other pools is one person for every 20 ft².</p>	Sign shall be affixed to a wall, pole, gate or similar permanent structure in a location visible to all pool users.	Pools Spas	 
<p>NO DIVING: Required for pools with a maximum water depth of 6 feet or less.</p>	Must be posed in conspicuous places easily visible from all areas of pool enclosure.	Pools Spas	
<p>KEEP CLOSED</p>	Sign shall be posted on the exterior side of gate and doors leading into the pool enclosure area.	Pools Spas	
<p>NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY: Where no lifeguard service is provided, a warning sign shall be posted stating "No Lifeguard On Duty". Sign must also include "Children under the age of 14 shall not use pool without a parent or adult guardian in attendance." In letters at least 1 inch (25 mm) high.</p>	Sign shall be affixed to a wall, pole, gate or similar permanent structure in a location visible to all pool users.	Pools Spas Spray Grounds	
<p>CPR: An illustrated diagram with text at least ¼ inch (6 mm) high of artificial respiration and CPR procedures.</p>	Sign shall be affixed to a wall, pole, gate or similar permanent structure in a location visible to all pool users.	Pools Spas Spray Grounds	
<p>EMERGENCY SIGN: The emergency telephone number 911, the emergency number of the nearest emergency services (Fire Department) and the name and street address of the pool facility shall be posted.</p>	Sign shall be affixed to a wall, pole, gate or similar permanent structure in a location visible to all pool users.	Pools Spas Spray Grounds	
<p>DIARRHEA SIGN: A sign in letter at least 1 inch (25 mm) high and in a language or diagram which clearly states that persons having currently active diarrhea or who have has active diarrhea within the previous 14 days shall not be allowed to enter the pool water.</p>	Sign shall be posted at the entrance area(s) of a public pool.	Pools Spas Spray Grounds	
<p>SPA WARNING SIGN: A warning sign for spa pools shall be posted stating "CAUTION" and shall include the following language in letters at least 1 inch (25 mm) high:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elderly persons, pregnant women, infants and those with health conditions requiring medical care should consult with a physician before entering the spa. Unsupervised use by children under the age of 14 is prohibited. Hot water immersion while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, drugs or medicines may lead to serious consequences and is not recommended. Do not use alone. Long exposure may result in hyperthermia, nausea, dizziness or fainting. 	Sign shall be affixed to a wall, pole, gate or similar permanent structure in a location visible to all pool users.	Spas	
<p>EMERGENCY SHUT OFF: Sign in letters at least 1 inch (25 mm) high and stating: "EMERGENCY SHUT OFF SWITCH"</p>	Sign shall be posted at the spa emergency shut off switch.	Spas	
<p>SPRAY GROUND: Spray ground shall have a sign posted that states: "CAUTION: WATER IS RECIRCULATED. DO NOT DRINK"</p>	Sign shall be posted at each spray ground and be visible from any part of the spray ground	Spray Grounds	
<p>KEYED GATES: If a pool enclosure has gates that require a key to exit, those gates and/or doors which will allow egress without a key shall have a sign stating: "EMERGENCY EXIT"</p>	Sign shall be posted on gates/doors where keyless egress is possible.	Pools Spas	
<p>NO POOL LIGHTS: If a pool was constructed without lighting or if lighting in inoperable, a sing shall be posted stating: "NO USE OF POOL ALLOWED AFTER DARK"</p>	Sign shall be posted at each pool entrance on the outside of gate(s).	Pools Spas	

Swimming Pool Water Chemistry

For more information, please refer to the *Swimming Pool Water Chemistry Fact Sheet*.

How do I treat my public swimming pool water?

The most common chemical used in the treatment of swimming pool water is Chlorine. It not only eliminates bacteria and algae by disinfecting (killing) action, it also oxidizes (chemically destroys) other materials such as dirt and chloramines.

State code requires that chlorine be injected into the pool water through the use of an approved automatic chlorinator. When chlorine (in any form) is added to water, a weak acid called *Hypochlorous acid* is produced. It is this acid, not the chlorine, which gives water its ability to oxidize and disinfect. Proper chlorination and filtration give pool water its clear, sparkling appearance.

What are the chemical requirements for maintaining a safe public pool environment?

California State Requirements:

- pH of 7.2-8.0 (recommended 7.4-7.6)
- Cyanuric acid amounts less than 100 ppm
- Spa temperature may not exceed 104°F

Not State required, but **recommended**:

- Temperature of pool around 76°F – *at temperatures between 78°F and 82°F, chlorine dissipates faster, algae grows better, and the formation of scale is more likely to occur so it is recommended that the temperature of swimming pools remains outside this zone.*
- Alkalinity of 80-120 ppm

How do I handle chemicals and where should I store them?

Chemicals should never be added directly to the pool while it is open for use. Please allow time for the chemicals to circulate throughout the pool before allowing swimmers to enter. Chlorine introduced through an automatic chlorinator is excluded from this rule.

Chemicals and materials used for treatment of water should be stored separately from one another and should **NEVER** be mixed in order to prevent harmful chemical reactions from occurring.

Doesn't chlorine kill all the germs?

No. Chlorine does not kill all the germs in the water, but it does a good job of killing most of the germs. However, a few germs can survive normal pool, hot tub, and spa levels of chlorine for several hours to days. Chlorine must be maintained at proper levels to kill most of the germs.

Is there anyone who should be more concerned with diseases spread in swimming pools?

Any swimmer who swims in or accidentally swallows fecally contaminated water can become ill. Most of the illness reported is diarrhea. Children, women who are pregnant, and people with weakened immune systems (such as HIV-infected persons, those who have received an organ transplant or those receiving certain types of chemotherapy) may be more susceptible to severe disease.

Can I get sick from using a spa pool?

Yes. Although you can get the same diseases from a spa-as you can from a swimming pool, skin infections are the most common type of infections spread through hot tubs and spas. The high water temperature of hot tubs and spas may cause chlorine levels to dissipate faster. As a result, chlorine in hot tubs and spas needs to be checked more regularly than in swimming pools.