Pool and Spa Operator Guide

Updated September 5, 2025

To: Public Pool and Spa Owners and Operators

Re: Operating and Maintaining Public Pools and Spas

The operation and maintenance of public pools and spas is legislated by Ontario Regulations 565/90 under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O.1990, c.H.7.

Owners and operators are responsible for ensuring that public pools and spas are operated and maintained in accordance with the provincial requirements. To assist you in meeting these requirements, Halton Region Public Health has created the Pool and Spa Operator Manual. This manual contains information to aid in maintaining safe and healthy public bathing environments. Proper pool maintenance and operation ensures bathers will not be exposed to illness, injuries, or death.

Certified public health inspectors carry out routine inspections of all public pools and spas to ensure compliance with the regulations. If you have any questions, please contact Halton Region Public Health by dialing 311.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring a safe and healthy environment for public pool and spa users!

Contents

Legislation

Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA) R.S.O. 1990, Chapter H.7

The purpose of this Act is to ensure the organized delivery of public health services, prevent the spread of disease, and promote and protect the health of the people of Ontario.

Public Pools R.R.O 1990, Regulation 565

The Public Pool Regulation is one of the many regulations made under the HPPA. The purpose of this regulation is to protect the health of swimmers and to protect the pool or spa structure and equipment.

Important Definitions in the Public Pools Regulation

“Hot water pool” means heated pools with a temperature of 35°C or greater.

“Operator” means a person designated by the owner of a public pool or public spa as being responsible for the operation of the pool or spa.

“Owner” means a person who is the owner of a public pool or spa.

“Public Cold Plunge Pool” means a pool that is maintained at a temperature of 15°C or less, with or without hydrojets, that is not drained, cleaned, sanitized and refilled before use by each individual.

“Public Floatation Pool” means a public pool that contains a saturated bathing solution of magnesium sulphate for floatation purposes, is not drained, cleaned, sanitized and refilled before use by each individual, and is designed for multiple persons.

“Public pool” means a structure, basin, chamber or tank containing or intended to contain an artificial body of water for swimming, water sport, water recreation or entertainment.

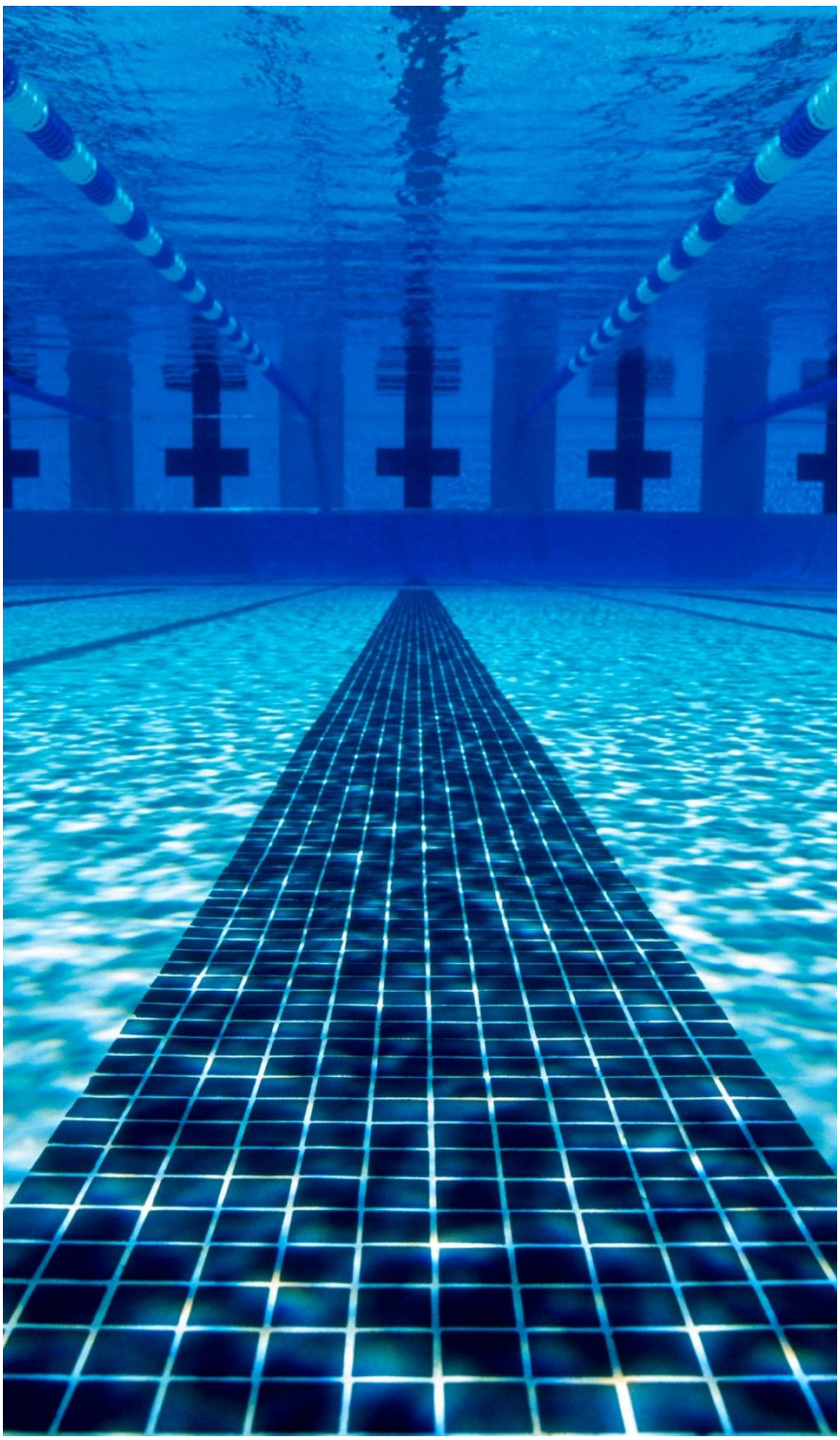
“Public spa” means a hydro-massage pool containing an artificial body of water that is intended primarily for therapeutic or recreational use, that is not drained, cleaned, or refilled before use by each individual and that utilizes hydrojet circulation, air induction bubbles, current flow or a combination of them over the majority of the pool area; (“spa public”).

Role of the Public Health Inspector

The Public Health Inspector ensures compliance with Ont. Reg. 565 by inspecting pools and spas for the requirements outlined in the regulation. The inspector examines records, checks the water chemistry and the pool and spa circulation/filtration systems, checks safety equipment, and ensures required signage has been posted by the operator. If a health hazard is present, the Public Health Inspector will order the pool or spa closed under section 13 of the HPPA to ensure the public’s safety.

Owner/Operator Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the owner/operator to ensure the pool/spa and its equipment are maintained in a safe and sanitary manner and to ensure the pool/spa is closed when a health hazard is present. Examples of health hazards include no sanitizer in the pool/spa, electrical concern, missing safety equipment, inoperable emergency phone or cloudy water.



Classification of Public Pools

In Ontario, public pools are classified under two categories, Class A and Class B. Class A pools are required to be supervised by lifeguards, while Class B pools can be exempted from supervision in certain situations. Exempted from supervision Class B pools are to post unsupervised pool signs advising that no one under 12 years is to be admitted without supervision by someone who is at least 16. Some examples of Class A pools are those that are operated by a municipality or YMCAs. Class B pools are found in places like condos, hotels, and gyms.

Reg. 565 Section 2. (1)

Class “A” pool, being a public pool to which the general public is admitted or that is,

- Operated in conjunction with or as part of a program of an educational, instructional, physical fitness or athletic institution or association, that is supported in whole or in part by public funds or public subscription, or
- Operated on the premises of a recreational camp, for use by campers and their visitors and camp personnel.

Reg. 565 Section 2. (2)

Class “B” pool, being a public pool that is,

- Operated on the premises of an apartment building that contains six or more dwelling units or suites or a mobile home park, for the use of the occupants and their visitors,
- Operated as a facility to serve a community of six or more single-family private residences, for the use of residents and their visitors,
- Operated on the premises of a hotel for the use of its guests and their visitors,
- Operated on the premises of a campground for the use of its tenants and their visitors,
- Operated in conjunction with,
    - a club for the use of its members and their visitors, or
    - a condominium, co-operative or community property that contains six or more dwelling units or suites for the use of the owners or members and their visitors,
- Operated in conjunction with a childcare centre, a day camp or an establishment or facility for the care or treatment of persons who have special needs, for the use of those persons and their visitors, or
- If it is not a Class A pool and it is not exempt from the provisions of this Regulation, then it is a Class B pool O. Reg. 565, s. 2.

Inspection Frequency

	Pools and Spas		
	YEAR-ROUND	SEASONAL	≤4 WEEKS PER YEAR
Pre-opening	Prior to opening or reopening after construction, alteration, or closure of >4wks		
Minimum frequency* **Includes pre-opening inspection, where applicable; balance must be while operating (and for single annual inspections).*	Once every 3 months	Once every 3 months while in operation	In addition to the opening inspection for the season, re-inspections to address any outstanding compliance issues

Pool and Spa Operation and Maintenance

Opening/Reopening Public Pools/Spas

It is the responsibility of the owner/operator to submit an online request to inform Halton Region Public Health at least 14 days prior to opening or re-opening a public pool/spa after:

- Construction or alteration
- Any closure of the pool/spa for more than 4 weeks duration

Online requests can be submitted by using the following link: Halton Region opening/re-opening notification process.

Operation

Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

- All components of the pool or spa are maintained in proper working order;
- All surfaces of the pool or spa deck and walls are maintained in a sanitary condition and free from potential hazards;
- Carpeting or other water-retentive material is not used in any pool or spa area that may become wet;
- The perimeter of the pool or spa deck are clearly delineated by painted lines or other means where any area contiguous to the pool or spa deck may be confused with the deck;
- Provisions are made for the safe storage and handling of all chemicals required in the

operation of the pool or spa;

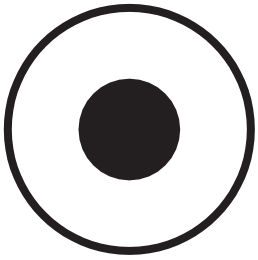
- Where footsprays are provided for the pool or spa, they are maintained in good working order and are kept sanitary;
- The submerged surfaces of the pool are white or light in colour, except for markings for safety or competition purposes;
- The perimeter drain of the pool is kept free of debris;
- At least 15 per cent of the total pool water volume is capable of being withdrawn from the gutter or skimmer lines daily and discharged to waste drains;
- Where the pool is equipped with a diving board or diving platform, the board or platform has a non-slip surface finish;
- Bathers do not have access to the electrical and mechanical equipment, chemicals and chemical feeders required for the operation of the pool;
- Where the pool has one or more ramps that are not submerged and that are adjacent to the pool wall and that are used for access to the water, the pool is provided with a removable barrier that separates the deck from the ramp;
- Where the pool has one or more ramps that are submerged, that are adjacent to the pool wall and that are used for access to the water, the pool is provided with a removable barrier that separates the walkway from the deck; and
- Exposed piping within the pool enclosure, inside the structure of the pool and inside appurtenant structures to the pool are identified by,
    - Colour coding with coloured bands at least 25 millimetres wide spaced along the piping at intervals not greater than 1.20 metres, or
    - Painting the entire outer surface of the piping in accordance with the following code:

      chlorine — yellow

      potable water — green.

Water Clarity Check Using the Black Disc

A black disk 15cm in diameter on a white background must be permanently affixed to the bottom of the pool at the deepest point. The black disk is to be clearly visible from any point on the deck 9 metres away from the disk.



Change Rooms, Toilets, and Showers

If toilets are provided, they are supplied with toilet paper, soap, and paper towels. The pool or spa, the deck, change rooms, toilets, showers and connecting corridors are to be kept clean, ventilated, disinfected and free from slip and trip hazards. Where dressing rooms, water closets and shower facilities are provided, they are available for bathers use before entering the deck.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Sections 6. (6), 11. (1), 11. (2)

Food

No food or beverage except water is to be supplied or consumed in the pool or spa or on the deck.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 10. (5)

Safety

It is the responsibility of the owner and the operator of a public pool to maintain the pool and its equipment in a safe and sanitary condition.

Pool and Spa Accessibility

The pool or spa owner/operator must ensure that, except during the daily use period, the pool or spa is rendered inaccessible to persons who are not involved with its operation, inspection, or maintenance.

Written Emergency and Operational Procedures

Every owner/operator must ensure that written emergency and operational procedures and instructions are available at the pool to be implemented in the event of an emergency, accident, or injury.

Refer to O. Reg 565 Section 17. (1)

Emergency Phone

The telephone must be easily accessible from the deck of a Class A pool. For a Class B pool and/or a spa, the telephone must be located no farther than 30m from the pool and/or spa.

The emergency phone must be tested daily and directly connected to an e to the local telephone utility. Cordless phones and cell phones may be use additional safety.

Refer to O. Reg 565 Sections 16. (1)(a), (b), (c), 16. (2)(a), (b), and (c)

Emergency Stop Button

Every owner of a public spa and, if applicable, public pool shall ensure that all pumps used in the operation of the spa or pool are capable of being deactivated by an emergency stop button. The emergency stop button is to be separate from the spa's or pool's timing device, is located within the immediate vicinity of the spa and/or pool and activates an audible and visual signal when used.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 26. (1)

Safety Equipment

The following safety equipment must be available on the pool and spa deck (that has an inner horizontal dimension greater than three metres):

- A non-conducting reaching pole that is at least 3.65 m long (e.g. fiberglass)
- Two buoyant throwing aids with a 6 mm diameter rope that is at least half the width of the pool plus three metres
- One spine board
- In the case of a Class B pool that has a slope of more than eight per cent, a buoy line must be in place at all times
- In the case of a public spa, a buoyant throwing aid to which securely attached is a six-millimetre diameter rope of a length not less than one-half the width of the pool area plus three metres

Facilities with multiple pools may share safety equipment and signage between two pools.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 20. (1)

First Aid Kit – Required Content

- A current copy of a standard first aid manual
- Safety pins
- Adhesive dressings individually wrapped
- Sterile gauze pads, each 75 millimetres square
- 50-millimetre gauze bandages
- 100-millimetre gauze bandages
- Sterile surgical pads suitable for pressure dressings individually wrapped
- Triangular bandages
- Rolls of splint padding
- At least one roll-up splint
- At least one pair of scissors
- Non-permeable gloves
- Resuscitation pocket mask

Refer to O Reg. 565 Section 20. (2)

Note: Where an item or items described above are provided for a public pool that operates in the immediate vicinity of a public spa, an owner or operator of the spa is not required to provide a duplicate item for the spa, including the emergency telephone as long as the item or telephone is conveniently located for emergency use to the spa.

Additional Safety Requirements for Hot Water Pools

Upper-Limit Cut-Off Switch

A tamper-proof cut-off switch is required to be installed to limit the temperature of the pool (104°F/ 40°C). This switch must be independent of the public hot water pool temperature thermostat.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 21.1(a)

Clock

A clock must be installed in a conspicuous location that can be viewed from anywhere in the public hot water pool.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 21.1(b)

Caution Notice

CAUTION

Children under the age of 12 are not allowed in the hot water pool unless supervised by a person who is 16 years of age or older.

Pregnant women and persons with known health or medical conditions should consult with a physician before using a hot water pool.

Overexposure may cause fainting. 10 to 15 minutes may be excessive for some individuals. Cool down periodically and leave the hot water pool if nausea or dizziness occurs.

Enter and exit the hot water pool slowly to prevent slipping.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 19.2

Additional Safety Requirements for Floatation Pools

UV Light Disinfection

Secondary treatment of UV light disinfection with an automatic shutoff device or audible and visual alarm in case of system failure.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 7(8.1)

Additional Safety Requirements for Cold Plunge Pools

Non-slip deck at entrance of pool, handrail for entry and exit, and caution notice

CAUTION

Children under the age of 12 are not allowed in the cold plunge pool unless supervised by a person who is 16 years of age or older.

Use of a cold plunge pool may trigger a cold shock response. Persons with known health or medical conditions should consult a physician before using a cold plunge pool.

Enter and exit the cold plunge pool slowly to prevent slipping.

Do not play or swim near drains or suction devices. Your body, body parts, hair, jewelry and other objects may become trapped and cause injury or drowning. People with long hair should be especially careful.

Do not enter or remain in a cold plunge pool if a drain cover or suction fitting is loose, broken, or missing. Immediately notify the cold plunge pool operator.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 26.0.1

Clock

A clock must be installed in a conspicuous location that can be viewed from anywhere in the public cold plunge pool.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 26.0.1

Additional Safety Requirements for Spas

Upper-Limit Cut-Off Switch

A tamper-proof cut off switch is required to be installed to limit the temperature of the spa (104°F/ 40°C). This switch must be independent of the spa's water temperature thermostat.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 21

Heat-Related Illness

Bathing in hot water for an extended period of time can lead to illness and even death. When the core body temperature is over 40°C, the body gains heat faster than it can cool itself. Symptoms that can result include nausea, pale cool skin, fatigue, muscle cramps, unconsciousness and even death. The upper-limit cut-off switch, timing device and clock are required by regulation to help prevent heat-related illness and drowning.

Timing Device

A timing device is required that controls the duration of the spa's jet pump. This timer must be set so that it runs for no more than 15 minutes and must be located so that the bather must exit the spa to reset it.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 22 (1)

Suction System

The spa suction system must be equipped with a vacuum relief mechanism that is either a vacuum release system, a vacuum limit system, or another engineered system. The suction system is designed to prevent body suction entrapment, which has been a cause of drowning in public spas.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 23

Clock

A clock must be installed in a conspicuous location that can be viewed from anywhere in the public spa.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 24

Steps

If a set of steps is provided for entry and/or exit from the spa water, the set of steps must be equipped with a handrail, have a non-slip surface on their treads, and have a band of contrasting colour applied along the entire juncture of the side and top of the edges of each step.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 25

Pool and Spa Chemistry

Maintaining the pool/spa chemistry is vital to ensuring bather health and comfort. Balanced pool/spa water exists when all the chemical parameters of the pool/spa water are within regulated levels. Chemicals that are added to the pool/spa, source water, bathers, airborne dirt, rain and animals can all change the pool/spa water balance.

Germs

Birds, animals, and people can introduce germs into a swimming pool/spa. Germs include bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungus. Germs can cause skin infections, eye and ear infections, throat infections, athlete's foot, urinary tract infections, planter warts, respiratory infections, and intestinal infections.

Organics

Organics include things such as dust, leaves, urine, feces, sweat, nasal discharge, body oils and suntan lotions. Organic matter originating from bathers or the environment provides a food supply for bacteria. An increase in food supply promotes bacterial growth which can lead to slippery surfaces, clogged filters, undesirable smells and tastes, cloudy or discolored water and bather infections.

Sanitizer

A sanitizer is a chemical that disinfects (kills germs) and oxidizes ("burns") organics. Chlorine and bromine are the only two sanitizers approved in Ontario for use in public pools/spas. The sanitizers must be introduced into the pool/spa water by means a chemical feeder, for example a chlorinator.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 7. (8)

Chlorine

The combination of chlorine and water results in the production of hypochlorous acid, which is highly effective in killing bacteria and oxidizing materials that were not removed by filtration. Hypochlorous acid is, however, sensitive to pH and UV light. A high pH will decrease its effectiveness and sunlight will cause it to break down.

Factors Affecting Chlorine Effectiveness

The effectiveness of chlorine can be affected by bather load, sunlight, dirt, debris, and microorganism introduced by birds, animals, and bathers.

Water Chemistry Parameters

The following table displays requirements of Reg. 565 (Public Pools) and ranges.

Requirement (where applicable)	**Range**
Alkalinity	60-180 ppm
pH	7.2-7.8
FAC for a pool	0.5-10.0 ppm
FAC for a pool with cyanuric acid	1.0-10.0 ppm
FAC for a cold plunge pool or floatation pool	5.0-10.0 ppm
Bromine for a pool	2.0-8.0 ppm
FAC for a spa or hot water pool that operates at a temperature of 35°C or greater	5.0-10.0 ppm
Bromine for a spa or hot water pool that operates at a temperature of 35°C or greater	5.0-10.0 ppm
ORP	600-900 mV
Cyanuric acid	Max 60 ppm
Floatation pools	UV treatment system appropriately sized for the pool with an automatic shut off or audible or visual alarm in case of system failure.

Cyanuric Acid

Chlorine is sensitive to sunlight, so a stabilizer can be used to aid with maintaining chlorine residual in outdoor pools. Cyanuric acid acts as a stabilizer because it forms a weak bond with the free available chlorine making it less sensitive to sunlight. This bond, however, reduces the overall effectiveness of the chlorine. The time it takes to kill bacteria is significantly increased with the use of cyanuric acid, so a greater concentration of FAC is required to treat the pool water.

High levels of cyanuric acid can result in an over-stabilized pool, which results in chlorine being less effective, water cloudiness and algae growth. Cyanuric acid is never used up, so the only way to decrease it is by draining some of the pool water and adding fresh water.

No cyanurate stabilization shall be used for indoor pools (totally or partially covered by a roof) and all spas.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 7. (10)

Recirculation and Filtration

Pool Make-up Water and Water Meter

The owner/operator of a pool must provide a water meter that registers the volume of all make-up water. The amount of make-up water added to the pool must not to be less than 15 litres per bather per day. The make-up water must be from an external source that is free from contamination that may be injurious to the health of bathers.

Sample Calculation: Make-up Water

What volume of make-up water must be added to a public pool after 65 bathers?

- Step 1) 15 L x 65 = 975 L

If you wish to convert the volume in litres to volume in gallons, complete the following operation:

- Step 2) Divide by 3.785 to convert volume in litres to volume in gallons 975/3.785 = 257. 59 gallons

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 7. (1), 7. (12)

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Sections 7. (13) and 7. (15)

Spa Make-up Water

The owner/operator of a spa with a volume that exceeds 4,000 litres shall add make-up water to the spa during each operating day in an amount that is a minimum of 15 litres per bather use, to a maximum of 20 per cent of the total spa volume.

Every operator of a public spa with a volume that is 4,000 litres or less shall drain to waste and refill the total volume of water in the public spa in accordance with the following formula:

WRI = V ÷ (10 × U)

where,

WRI = the maximum number of operating days that may elapse between drainings, rounded up to a whole number,

V = the total volume of the spa in litres, and

U = the total estimated number of bather uses per operating day.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Sections 7. (14) and 7. (16)

Turnover Rate

Turnover rate is the time it takes in hours for the circulation system to move the entire volume of pool water through the filtration system.

Turnover rate requirements:

- in a Class A pool that was constructed after the 30th day of April 1974, a volume of water not less than four times the total capacity of the pool is filtered, disinfected and passed through the pool each day,
- in a Class A pool that was constructed before the 1st day of May, 1974 and in a Class B pool, a volume of water not less than three times the total capacity of the pool is filtered, disinfected and passed through the pool each day, and
- in a wave action pool, a volume of water not less than six times the total capacity of the pool is filtered, disinfected, and passed through the pool each day.

Refer to O. Reg 565 Section 6. (3) (c)

Flow Meter

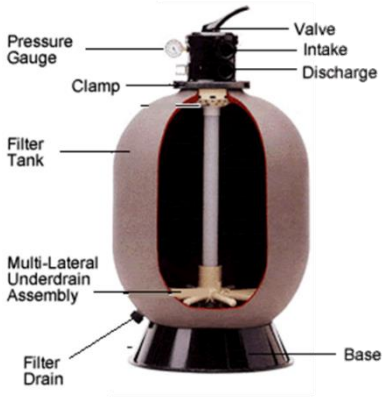
In order to determine the turnover rate, a flow meter must be installed on the circulation system. This flow meter must be easily readable, so that the turnover rate can be verified.

Filtration

If a contaminant is visible, it can be filtered out. A filter will not remove bacteria. Sanitizer kills germs – bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. There are several different types of media filters.

Sand Filters

Sand filters are the most common type of filters. Materials with oil-like properties stick to the sand and solid materials like dirt become trapped in the spaces between the sand grains. Types of sand filters include gravity sand, conventional sand and high-rate pressure sand.



Backwashing

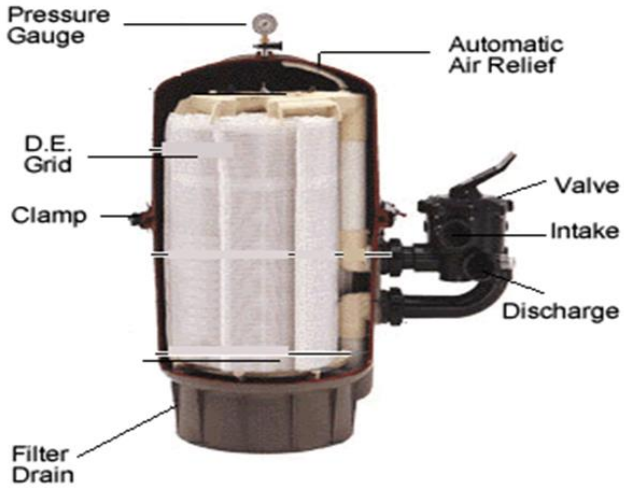
Backwashing is necessary when it becomes too difficult to move water through the filter media at an adequate flow rate. The frequency at which backwashing must be carried out is determined by the design of the filter, size of the filter, type of filter, quality of water supply, bather load, location of pool and presence of algae. Check manufacturer's instructions for recommended backwash frequency.

Changing the Filter Sand

The roughness of the sand is what makes it a good filter. With time, the sand becomes smooth and less effective as a filter. Refer to manufacturer's guidelines or consult a pool company on how often the sand in your pool filter should be changed. Proper care of the pool filter will help maintain the pool water balance.

Diatomite Filters (DE)

Diatomaceous earth is the fossilized remains of tiny sea water plant organisms called diatoms. The remains appear like fine porous white powder, but under a microscope they look like spheres with tunnels. There are two types of DE Filters: pressure (closed tank) diatomite, and vacuum (open tank) diatomite. The small openings of the diatoms trap/filter out materials as water passes through and around the spheres. Check manufacturer's instructions on how to maintain DE filter media.



Notices and Markings

General Pool Rules Sign

The following sign must be posted in at least two places. The signage may be shared between two pools with one notice within the line of sight of bathers of each pool.

No person infected with a communicable disease or having open sores on his or her body shall enter the pool,

No person shall bring a glass container on to the deck or into the pool

No person shall pollute the water in the pool in any manner and that spitting, spouting of water and blowing the nose in the pool or on the deck are prohibited,

No person shall engage in boisterous play in or about the pool,

The maximum number of bathers permitted on the deck and in the pool at any time is: _____

The emergency phone is located:

_____

Calculating the Pool Bather Load

The maximum bather load is calculated using the following equation:

$$\text{Maximum bather load} = \frac{\text{Area of deep end}}{2.5} + \frac{\text{Area of shallow end}}{1.4} = \_\_\_\_\_ \text{bathers}$$

where,

D = the area in square metres of the part of the pool that is deeper than 1.35 metres; and

S = the area in square metres of the part of the pool that is 1.35 metres in depth or shallower.

Note: For Class B pools exempted from supervision that have a water surface greater than 93 square meters, the bather load must be 10, regardless of the calculation.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 10. (1) and 17. (19)(b)

General Spa Rules Sign

This sign must be posted in an easily visible location.

CAUTION

Children under the age of 12 are not allowed in the spa unless supervised by a person who is 16 years of age or older.

Pregnant women and persons with known health or medical conditions should consult with a physician before using a spa.

Do not use the spa if you have an open sore or rash, or are experiencing nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

Overexposure may cause fainting. 10 to 15 minutes may be excessive for some individuals. Cool down periodically and leave the spa if nausea or dizziness occurs.

Enter and exit the spa slowly, to prevent slipping.

Do not play or swim near drains or suction devices. Your body, body parts, hair, jewelry, and other objects may become trapped and cause injury or drowning. People with long hair should be especially careful.

Do not enter or remain in a spa if a drain cover or suction fitting is loose, broken or missing. Immediately notify the spa operator.

No food or beverage except water is permitted within the deck or spa. No glass containers of any kind are permitted within the deck or spa.

Calculating the Spa Bather Load

Every operator of a public spa shall ensure that the maximum number of persons permitted to use the spa at any one time is the lesser of the following:

- One person per square metre of surface water area.
- The maximum bather load identified by the manufacturer of the spa. O. Reg. 494/17, s. 7 (3).

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 10 (2.1)

Shower Sign

The following sign is required to be posted near the entrance to the deck.

> Each bather shall take a cleansing shower using soap and warm water and thoroughly rinse off all soap before entering the deck.

Emergency Telephone Sign

At the emergency telephone the following sign should be posted:

> **EMERGENCY TELEPHONE INSTRUCTIONS**
>
> **Dial 911**
>
> If the emergency telephone is directly connected to emergency services or you must dial a number to get an outside line, indicate this information prominently on the sign.
>
> REMAIN CALM. SPEAK CLEARLY. ANSWER.
> This pool is located at:
>
> _____
>
> State the type of emergency (drowning, electrical, spinal injury).
> Remain on the line until the operator tells you to hang up.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 19. (3)

No Diving Sign

If the pool water depth is less than 2.50 m, one of the following signs must be posted:

CAUTION – AVOID DEEP DIVES

SHALLOW WATER – NO DIVING

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 19. (7)

In a Class “B” pool with a diving board:

DANGER – AVOID DEEP OR LONG DIVES

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 19. (9)

Deck Markings

The water depths must be indicated on the pool deck (and spa with a horizontal dimension greater than 3m) at the following areas:

- Deep points
- Shallow points
- Breaks between gentle and steep bottom slopes

In addition, the words “DEEP AREA” and “SHALLOW AREA” must be marked in their appropriate size locations on the deck.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 19. (6)

Unsupervised Pool Sign

Class B pools that have a water surface area of less than 93 square metres, must have the following sign posted:

CAUTION

THIS POOL IS UNSUPERVISED. BATHERS UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE ARE NOT ALLOWED WITHIN THE POOL ENCLOSURE UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR HIS OR HER AGENT WHO IS NOT LESS THAN SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE

Class B pools that have a water surface area of more than 93 square metres, must have the following sign posted:

CAUTION

THIS POOL IS UNSUPERVISED. BATHERS UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE ARE NOT ALLOWED WITHIN THE POOL ENCLOSURE UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT

OR HIS OR HER AGENT WHO IS NOT LESS THAN SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BATHERS ON THE DECK AND IN THE POOL SHALL NOT EXCEED TEN.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 17. (19)

Emergency Stop Button Sign

Ensure the following signage is posted above the emergency stop button:

In the event of emergency push emergency stop button and use emergency phone. An audible and visual signal will activate.

Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 26 (2)

Timing Device

A notice must be posted at the timing device identifying it as a timer. Refer to O. Reg. 565 Section 22 (2).

Record Keeping

Ontario Pool Regulation 565 requires the keeping of pool and spa records. Pool and spa records may be used as evidence in court if a drowning/accident occurs at your pool/spa or an outbreak of a communicable disease is linked to your pool/spa. Records must be signed or initialized by the person who performed the tests immediately following the tests. Records must be kept for a period of one year.

Required Pool and Spa Records

Each operating day, a minimum of 30 minutes prior to opening, every operator shall manually test and record the following:

- Total alkalinity
- pH value
- Free available chlorine and total chlorine or bromine residual
- Water clarity
- Water temperature, in the case of spas (O. Reg. 494/17, s. 5.) and hot water pools.

If using an automatic sensing device, the requirements provided above must be further checked and recorded at least every four hours until the daily use period has ended.

If not using an automatic sensing device, the requirements provided above must be further manually checked and recorded at least every two hours until the daily use period has ended. O. Reg. 494/17, s. 5

Daily records must also include:

- Total number of bathers
- Make-up water meter reading
- Time of day the emergency phone is tested prior to opening
- Spa/pool maintenance (ex. draining, inspecting, refilling)
- Emergencies, rescues, or equipment breakdowns
- Type and amount of chemicals added manually

Weekly Records must include:

- Cyanuric Acid (outdoor pools)

Monthly Records must include:

- Outlet cover (main drain) inspections
- GFCI test
- Emergency stop button, if available
- Vacuum release mechanisms, if applicable

Class C Facilities

Important Definitions

“Class C facilities” means any of the following: a public wading pool, a public spray pad or public splash pad, a water slide receiving basin that serves solely as a receiving basin for persons at the bottom of a water slide, a public floatation tank. O. Reg. 141/18, s. 2; O. Reg. 502/24, s. 2.

“Public floatation tank” means a basin, chamber or tank that, contains a saturated bathing solution of magnesium sulphate for floatation purposes, is not drained, cleaned, sanitized and refilled before use by each individual, is designed for up to two bathers, and provides a light and sound reduced environment.

“Public spray pad or public splash pad” means an indoor or outdoor installation that includes sprayed, jetted or other water sources contacting bathers and not incorporating standing or captured water as part of the bather activity area.

“Public wading pool” means any structure, basin, chamber or tank containing or intended to contain an artificial body of water having a depth of water equal to 75 centimeters or less at any point, that is provided for the recreational or instructive use of young children.

Inspection Frequency

Class C facilities shall be inspected once per year. Additional inspections may be conducted as needed (i.e. complaints). A pre-opening inspection is required prior to opening or reopening after construction, alteration, or closure greater than 4 weeks.

Opening/Reopening of Class C Facilities

It is the responsibility of the owner/operator to submit an online request to inform Halton Region Public Health at least 14 days before opening or re-opening a class C facility after:

- Construction or alteration
- Any closure of the class C facility for more than 4 weeks duration

Online requests can be submitted by using the following link: Halton Region opening/re-opening notification process.

Operation

Every owner and every operator shall ensure that,

- The class C facility and its equipment is maintained in safe and sanitary condition
- All components of the class C facility are maintained in proper working order

- Except during the daily use period, the wading pool is rendered inaccessible to persons who are not involved with its operation, inspection or maintenance.

Wading Pools

Water Quality

Every owner and operator of a wading pool shall ensure that,

- The clean water and the make-up water are free from contamination that may be injurious to the health of the bathers
- The wading pool water is maintained free from visible matter that may be hazardous to the health or safety of the bathers
- The wading pool water is treated with chlorine, a chlorine compound or a bromine compound by means of a chemical feeder, and is maintained so that in every part of the wading pool, at all times during the daily use period.

Water Chemistry Parameters

Requirement	**Range**
Total Alkalinity	60 – 180 ppm
pH	7.2 – 7.8
Free Available Chlorine/Total Bromine	5 – 10 ppm
ORP	600 – 900 mV

Record Keeping

Each operating day, a minimum of 30 minutes prior to a wading pool opening, every operator shall manually test and record the following:

- Total alkalinity
- pH
- Free available chlorine and total chlorine or bromine residual
- Water clarity

If using an automatic sensing device, the requirements provided above must be further checked and recorded at least every four hours until the daily use period has ended.

If not using an automatic sensing device, the requirements provided above must be further manually checked and recorded at least every two hours until the daily use period has ended.

Every operator of a wading pool shall record the results of inspections of safety-related equipment present in the facility at a frequency determined by a public health inspector.

Wading Pool Safety

Every operator of a public wading pool shall,

- Provide a first aid kit, a device for emergency communications and emergency equipment which is appropriate for use in the public wading pool
- Ensure attendant supervision at all times; and where the wading pool is operated in conjunction with a public pool, ensure that the required supervision of the wading pool is in addition to any required bathing supervision for the public pool

Wading pool attendants' supervision may be exempted for wading pools with a water depth of 15 cm or less provided the owner/operator:

- Notifies MOH or PHI that they will not be providing an attendant for supervision
- Develops a written safety plan
- Post of prescribed notice that the wading pool is unsupervised.

Wading Pool Caution Notice

CAUTION

THIS POOL IS UNSUPERVISED. BATHERS UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE ARE NOT ALLOWED WITHIN THE PUBLIC WADING POOL ENCLOSURE UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR HIS OR HER AGENT WHO IS NOT LESS THAN SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE

Wading Pool Rules

Wading Pool Rules

Children should be appropriately attired for their age and continence ability to prevent fouling of the wading pool (e.g. swim diapers recommended).

No glass container, food, or beverage is allowed in the wading pool or in the area immediately surrounding the wading pool.

Recreational water is not intended for drinking.

Do no enter the wading pool if you have an open sore or rash, or are experiencing nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

No person shall pollute the water in the wading pool in any manner or on the area immediately surrounding the wading pool.

No person shall engage in boisterous play in or about the wading pool.

Spray/Splash Pads

Water Quality

Every owner and operator of a public spray/splash pad shall ensure that,

- Clean water and the make-up water are free from contamination that may be injurious to the health of the bathers
- It is maintained free from visible matter that may be hazardous to the health or safety of the bathers.

Recirculating Spray/Splash Pads

Recirculating splash pads and spray features that draw water directly from the pool (e.g., “mushroom features”, umbrellas, fountains) require both primary and secondary disinfection. The filtration, disinfection process, and frequency at which the operator should test the water quality for spray/splash pads must be approved by the PHI. Operators and PHIs should work together to implement a water monitoring plan appropriate for the facility. It is recommended that the following steps be implemented as part of a water monitoring plan:

- The water is filtered
- Chemically disinfected with chlorine or bromine
- Retained in a storage tank for the appropriate period of time to allow effective disinfection to occur
- Treated with ultraviolet light capable of rendering cysts and oocysts inactive before water enters the spray/splash pad.
- Proper turbidity monitoring should be in place to ensure the UV treatment device is effective
- UV treatment units should have a mechanism in place to prevent water from being directed to the spray pad/splash pad in the event of equipment malfunction
- Testing of the disinfectant and pH levels should occur every 2-4 hours
- Availability of a qualified operator to attend the site promptly to address any issues
- Contact information for the operator available on signage at the splash pad.

Signage and Record Keeping

Every owner and operator of a public spray/splash pad shall,

- Post clearly visible signage in a conspicuous place notifying parents or guardians to supervise their children at all times when using the public spray pad or public splash pad.

Every operator of a spray/splash pad shall record the results of inspections of safety-related equipment present in the facility at a frequency determined by a public health inspector.

Spray/Splash Pad Rules

SPRAY/SPLASH PAD POOL RULES

Children should be appropriately attired for their age and continence ability to prevent fouling of this spray pad/splash pad (e.g. swim diapers recommended).

No glass container from a food, or beverage is allowed on the spray pad/splash pad or in the area immediately surrounding the spray pad/splash pad.

Recreational water is not intended for drinking.

Do not use this spray pad/splash pad if you have an open sore or rash, or are experiencing nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

No person shall pollute the water or surface of the spray pad/splash pad in any manner or on the immediate area surrounding the spray pad/splash pad.

No person shall engage in boisterous play in or about the spray pad/splash pad.

Floatation Tanks

Water Quality and Operation

Every owner and operator of a public floatation tank shall ensure that,

- Clean water and the make-up water are free from contamination that may be injurious to the health of the bathers
- It is maintained free from visible matter that may be hazardous to the health or safety of the bathers
- The water is treated with chlorine, a chlorine compound or bromine compound by means of a chemical feeder, and is maintained so that in every part of the floatation tank, at all times during the daily use period
- Filtration system suitable to the tank design that is capable of ensuring the water has three turnovers of the tank between each bather
- Shower facilities are available for bathers to shower before and after using the floatation tank
- Alternative methods for filtering and disinfecting the water in a public floatation tank may be submitted for review and approval in writing by the local medical officer of health or a public health inspector.

Water Chemistry Parameters

Requirement	Range
Total Alkalinity	80 – 120 ppm
pH	7.2 – 7.8
Free Available Chlorine	1.5 – 5 ppm
Total bromine	2.5 – 5 ppm
Water temperature	Less than 37°C

Floatation Tank Safety

Every owner and operator of a public floatation tank shall,

- Provide a first aid kit, a device for emergency communications and emergency equipment which is appropriate for use in the floatation tank.

Every operator of a floatation tank shall record the results of inspections of safety-related equipment present in the facility at a frequency determined by a public health inspector.

Appendix A: Pool Log- Daily Records

POOL LOG – Daily Records **Date:** (month/year)

Facility name: ______________________________________

Address: ______________________________________

	Time (hh:mm)	Chemical & Safety Checks	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Manually **check ½ hour prior** to opening		pH							
		FAC/Bromine							
		Total Chlorine							
		Total Alkalinity							
		Water clarity							
		Emergency phone							
		*Water temp							
		Initials							
Automatic Sensing Device: Check every **4** hours		pH							
		FAC/Bromine							
		Total Chlorine							
		Total Alkalinity							
		Water clarity							
		*Water temp							
		Initials							
		pH							
		FAC/Bromine							
		Total Chlorine							
		Total Alkalinity							
		Water clarity							
		*Water temp							
		Initials							
		pH							
		FAC/Bromine							
		Total Chlorine							
		Total Alkalinity							
		Water clarity							
		*Water temp							
		Initials							
		pH							
		FAC/Bromine							
		Total Chlorine							
		Total Alkalinity							
		Water clarity							
		*Water temp							
		Initials							
Daily (at end of the day)		Total number of bathers							
		Water meter reading							
		Initials							
Weekly (outdoor only)		Cyanuric Acid							

* Water temperature checking is only required for hot water pools

Chemicals added (include date/time):

Emergencies/ rescues/ equipment breakdowns (include date/time):

Free Available Chlorine (FAC): 0.5 – 10 ppm **Bromine:** 2-8 ppm **Hot water pool** (35 degrees Celsius or greater): **FAC or Bromine:** 5-10 ppm **Cold plunge pool** (15 degrees Celsius or less) **FAC:** 5-10 ppm or **Bromine:** 2-8 ppm **Floatation Pool: FAC:** 5-10 ppm or **Bromine:** 2-8 ppm	Use formula TC - FAC= CC, where TC = Total Chlorine and CC = Combined Chlorine **Combined Chlorine (CC) should not exceed 0.5 ppm**
pH: 7.2 – 7.8	**Total Alkalinity:** 60 – 180 ppm
Clarity test: Black disc clearly visible from any point on deck 30 ft/ 9 m away	**Oxidation Reduction Potential (ORP):** 600 – 900 mV
Cyanuric Acid (outdoor only): Max 60 mg/L	

RECORDS MUST BE RETAINED FOR 1 YEAR AND AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

Appendix B: Spa Log- Daily Records

SPA LOG – Daily Records **Date:** (month/year)

Facility name: ____ **1/2**

Address: ____

	Time (hh:mm)	Chemical & Safety Checks	Mon ______	Tues ______	Wed ______	Thurs ______	Fri ______	Sat ______	Sun ______
Manually **check ½ hour prior** to opening		pH							
		FAC/Bromine							
		Total Chlorine							
		Total Alkalinity							
		Water clarity							
		Emergency phone							
		Water temp.							
		Initials							
Automatic Sensing Device: Check every **4** hours **No Automatic Sensing Device:** Check every **2** hours		pH							
		FAC/Bromine							
		Total Chlorine							
		Total Alkalinity							
		Water clarity							
		Water temp.							
		Initials							
		pH							
		FAC/Bromine							
		Total Chlorine							
		Total Alkalinity							
		Water clarity							
		Water temp.							
		Initials							
		pH							
		FAC/Bromine							
		Total Chlorine							
		Total Alkalinity							
		Water clarity							
		Water temp.							
		Initials							
		pH							
		FAC/Bromine							
		Total Chlorine							
		Total Alkalinity							
		Water clarity							
		Water temp.							
		Initials							
		pH							
		FAC/Bromine							
		Total Chlorine							
		Total Alkalinity							
		Water clarity							
		Water temp.							
		Initials							
		pH							
		FAC/Bromine							
		Total Chlorine							
		Total Alkalinity							
		Water clarity							
		Water temp.							
		Initials							

Automatic sensing device:
A device that (a) determines and continuously displays sanitizer residual and pH value of spa water and (b) regulates the operation of chemical feeders to maintain sanitizer and pH levels in accordance with O. Reg 565.

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	Time (hh:mm)	Chemical & Safety Checks	Mon ______	Tue ______	Wed ______	Thurs ______	Fri ______	Sat ______	Sun ______
Automatic Sensing Device: Check every **4** hours **No Automatic Sensing Device:** Check every **2** hours		pH							
		FAC/Bromine							
		Total Chlorine							
		Total Alkalinity							
		Water clarity							
		Water temp.							
		Initials							
		pH							
		FAC/Bromine							
		Total Chlorine							
		Total Alkalinity							
		Water clarity							
		Water temp.							
		Initials							
		pH							
		FAC/Bromine							
		Total Chlorine							
		Total Alkalinity							
		Water clarity							
		Water temp.							
		Initials							
Daily (at end of the day)		Total number of bathers							
		Water meter reading							
		Initials							

Water Replacement (spa volume is 4000L or less)		
Date and Time	Spa drained/inspected/refilled	Initials

Chemicals added (include date/time): ____

____

____

____

Emergencies/ rescues/ equipment breakdowns (include date/time): ____________________________

____

____

____

Free Available Chlorine (FAC): 5 – 10 ppm **Bromine:** 5-10 ppm	Use formula TC - FAC= CC, where TC = Total Chlorine and CC = Combined Chlorine **Combined Chlorine (CC) should not exceed 0.5 ppm**
pH: 7.2 – 7.8	**Total Alkalinity:** 60 – 180 ppm
Clarity test: Black disc clearly visible from any point on deck 30 ft/ 9 m away	**Oxidation Reduction Potential (ORP):** 600 – 900 mV
Water Replacement (spa volume is greater than 4000L): minimum 15L/bather/day	

RECORDS MUST BE RETAINED FOR 1 YEAR AND AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

Appendix C: Pool Monthly Log

POOL LOG –Monthly Records **Year:**

Facility name: _____

Address: _____

Date	Main Drain/Outlet Covers	GFCI	Emergency Stop Button	Vacuum Release (if applicable)	Signature
January _____					
February _____					
March _____					
April _____					
May _____					
June _____					
July _____					
August _____					
September _____					
October _____					
November _____					
December _____					

Appendix D: Spa Monthly Log

SPA LOG –Monthly Records **Year:**

Facility name: _____

Address: _____

Date	Main Drain/Outlet Covers	GFCI	Emergency Stop Button	Vacuum Release	Signature
January _____					
February _____					
March _____					
April _____					
May _____					
June _____					
July _____					
August _____					
September _____					
October _____					
November _____					
December _____					