



POOL OPERATIONS & SAFETY

Water Recreation Program
Office of Environmental Health & Safety

Overview

- Barriers (fences, gates, doors)
- Emergency Equipment
- Test Kits
- Fecal Incidents
- Injury & Illness Reporting
- Record & Log Keeping



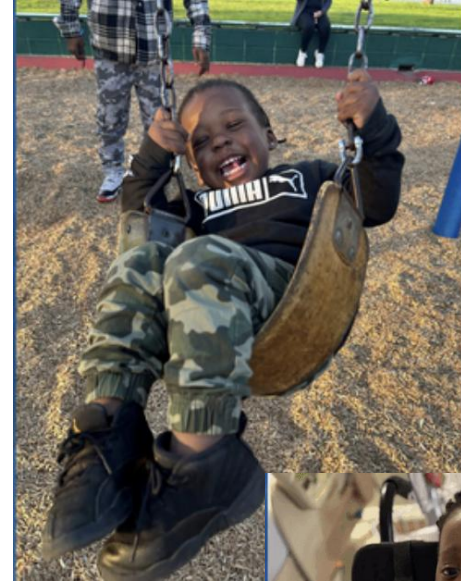


Importance of Barriers

- In 2024, WA local health departments reported that 370 inspections, or 20% of all reported pool closures, were due to lack of a self-closing or latching door/gate
 - NOTE: mandatory closure only occurs if ALL entries/exits are non-compliant and cannot be corrected
- When was the last time you checked all your doors/gates?
- Do you ever prop the gate open like you see here?

Don't let this happen at your facility!

- 2-year-old Jasper was playing when he entered the pool through a broken gate at his apartment complex
- He suffered an anoxic brain injury—a condition caused by a lack of oxygen to the brain
- The local health department had previously cited the pool for having a broken gate months before the incident
- Facility was found liable for and family won a \$26 Million policy settlement



Photos from The Haggard Law Firm

Technique for Checking Barrier Gates and Doors

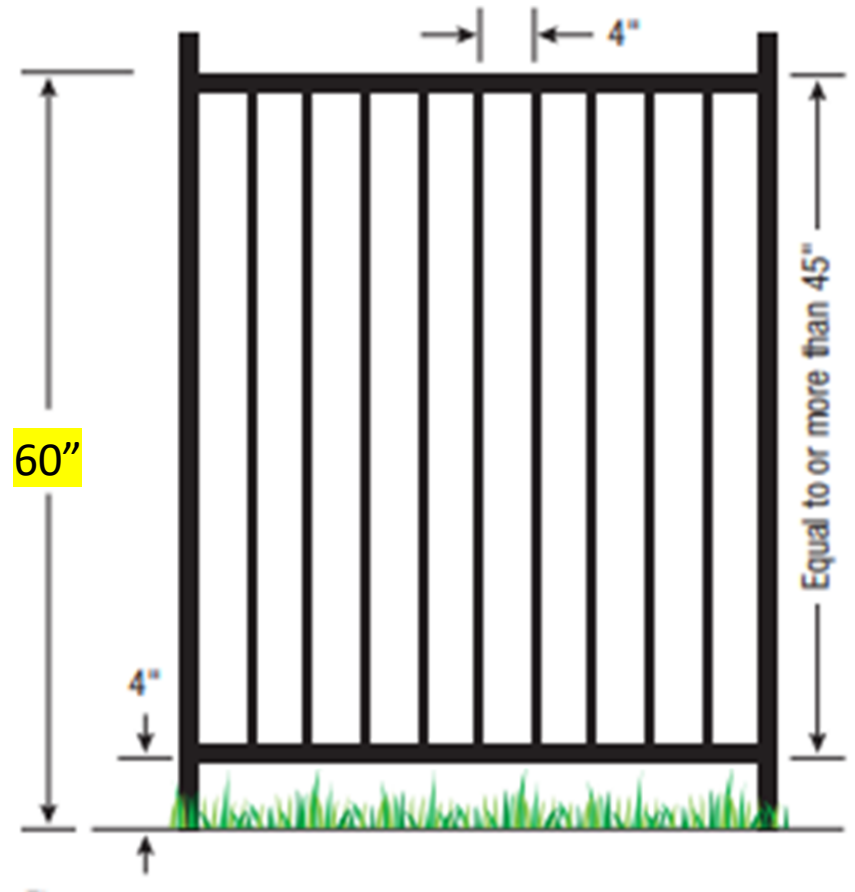


- Must have a 60-inch latch height or be continuously locked
- Doors or gates used to enter and exit the pool area when opened from any distance must be:
 - Self-closing
 - Self-latching

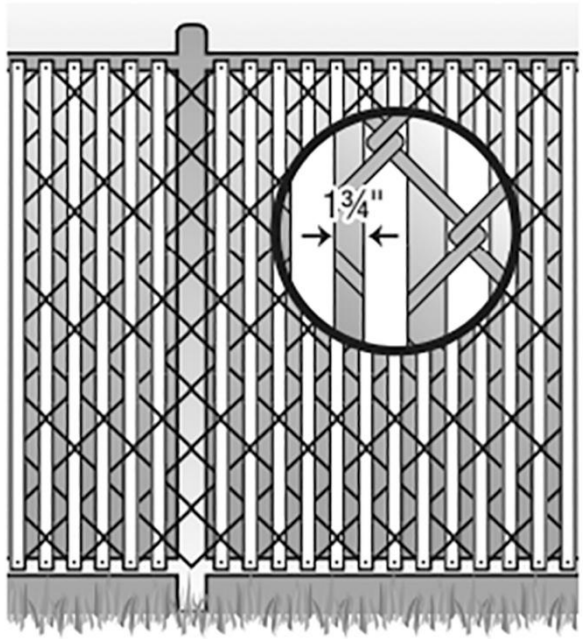
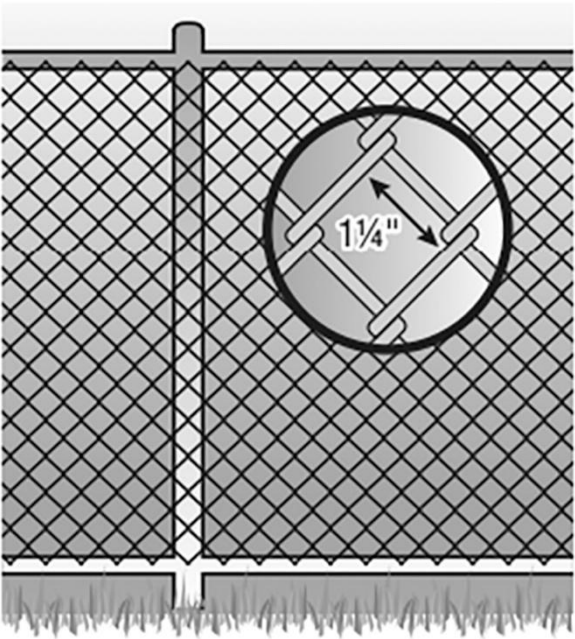
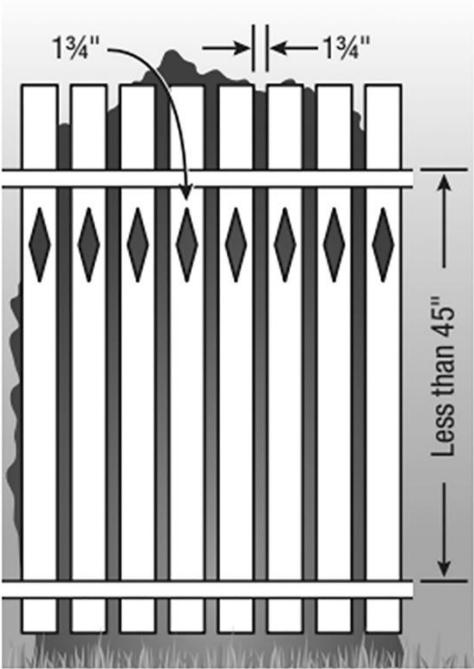
Does this door self-close and latch?

Barrier and Gate Design

- Barrier height requirement
 - Limited use pools: at least 60"
 - General use pools: at least 72"
- Openings in the barrier shown shall not allow passage of 4 inches sphere
- If tops of horizontal members are less than 45" apart, vertical spacing shall not exceed 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".
- Solid barriers; no indentations or protrusions

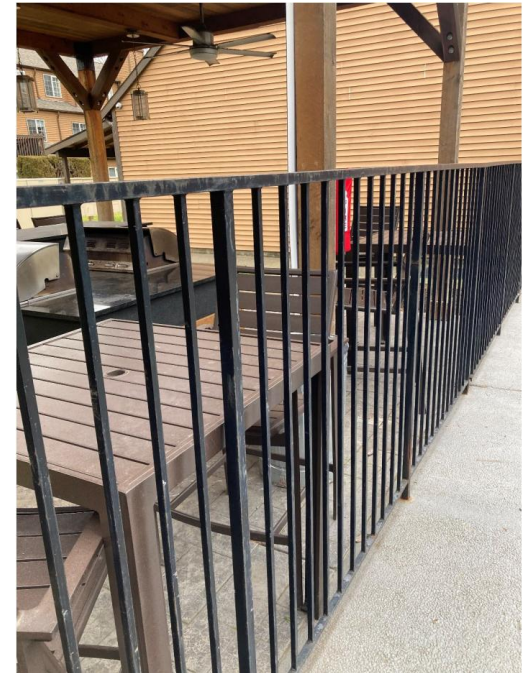


Barriers Design Cont.



Prevent Climbing

- Keep furniture away
- Lattice or climbable styles not allowed
- Stone must not have gaps that create hand



If modifying or replacing barriers, notify your local health department!



Emergency Equipment for Unguarded Pools

- Phone
- 12-foot solid pole w/ double crook life hook, AKA shepherd's hook
- Throwing ring or buoy w/ rope
- First aid kit

How to use a life hook

- Ensure a solid pole, not expandable
- Get on your stomach to prevent falling in



Emergency phone

- Within 1 minute for limited use pools
- Capable of dialing 911
 - Provide dialing instructions when necessary
- Audio should be clear
- Recommend verifying that the dispatcher has the correct address and posting
 - Especially for transient accommodation facilities, i.e., hotels, motels, resorts, etc.



First Aid Kit

- The items that are missing most often:
 - CPR mask
 - Emergency blanket
 - Pools, spas, slides, or waterparks must have one



Item	Quantity
Absorbent gauze 24"X72" (1 per package)	1
Adhesive bandages 1" (16 per package)	1
Bandage compresses 4" (1 per package)	2
Eye dressing (1 per package)	1
Scissors and tweezers	1
Triangular bandages 40" (1 per package)	2
Individualized antiseptic pads (3 per package)	1
Surgical gloves (2 pr. minimum, 4 recommended)	1
CPR mask (disposable or reusable type)	1
Adhesive gauze or elastic or self-adherent wrap roll	1
Cold packs	1
First-aid cream or antibiotic ointment	1
1/2" or 1" rolls of tape (2 rolls per package)	1
Butterfly bandage	1
Knuckle or finger tip bandages	1
Body clean up parts	1
Additional units of required units	1

Lifeguards need to be rescue ready

- Rescue tube at each lifeguard station
- Backboard w/ straps to secure the victim
- First aid kit
- Lifeguards must have:
 - Distinguishing uniform
 - Whistle and/or communication devices
 - Lifeguard pack
 - pocket mask and gloves
 - Current certification from an approved agency
 - Operators need to verify



Water Quality Testing Kits & Devices

- Reagents expire!
 - Be careful refilling bottles, Taylor Test Kits, for example, states to clean the container you are refilling with demineralized water
 - Must include the reagent name and current expiration date when refilling
- Store your test kit and reagents in a cool, dry place according to the manufacturer's instructions
 - Frequent temperature fluctuations and UV radiation can cause reagents to deteriorate
- Test strips are not allowed



Responding to Fecal Incidents

Follow guidance developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

- Based upon:
 - Type of stool
 - Loose vs. solid
 - Cryptosporidium can survive more than 7 days
 - Chlorine type
 - Stabilized vs. Unstabilized
 - Stabilized chlorine contains cyanuric acid and requires a higher concentration of chlorine

DON'T go in splash pads if you have diarrhea.

DON'T sit or stand on jets.

DON'T swallow the water.



Jets can rinse poop and germs into the water. Chlorine kills most germs within minutes, but some poop germs can stay alive more than 7 days. Swallowing water with these germs can make you sick.



Fecal Incident Response Recommendations for Aquatic Staff

What do you do when you find poop in the water?



Check for existing guidelines from your local or state regulatory agency before use. CDC recommendations do not replace existing state or local regulations or guidelines.

These recommendations are for responding to fecal incidents in chlorinated aquatic venues (for example, pools and water playgrounds).

Improper handling of chlorine-based disinfectants can cause injury. Follow proper occupational safety and health requirements when following these recommendations. For more pool chemical safety information, visit www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/aquatics-professionals/preventing-pool-chemical-events.html.

CLOSURES: Fecal incidents are a concern and an inconvenience to both aquatic staff and patrons. Aquatic staff should carefully explain to patrons why the aquatic venue needs to be closed in response to a fecal incident. Explaining the reasons for closing the venue (for proper disinfection and protection of swimmer health) is likely to promote patron understanding and minimize their frustration. Closures allow chlorine to do its job—kill germs and help prevent recreational water illnesses (RWIs).

Hot tubs/spas, and some water playgrounds, can have much smaller amounts of water. In response to formed or diarrheal fecal incidents in small-volume venues, it might be more efficient to completely drain as much water as possible from the venue and associated plumbing; scrub and clean all accessible surfaces in contact with contaminated water; replace or clean filter media when appropriate, and refill with uncontaminated water from an approved source (for example, municipal water system).

CDC Guidance

- Handling blood or vomit
- Responding to a dead animal
- Responding to birds
- Responding to raccoons


Check out their website to see more guidance:

www.cdc.gov/healthy-swimming/

Injury, Illness, & Fatality Reporting

- WAC 246-260-121 requires owners notify the health department within 48 hours of becoming aware of a drowning, near drowning, death, serious injury, or serious illness associated with the water recreation facility.
- "Serious injury" means any injury:
 - Requiring EMS response where a person requires medical treatment by the EMS personnel or
 - Resulting in a person seeking medical attention at a medical facility
- Use our forms online to report to your local health department


**Water Recreation Facility
Injury Report Form**



Reporting Requirement: The owner or operator **MUST** report any death, near drowning, or serious injury to their local health department (preferred) or the state Department of Health within 48 hours (RCW 70.90 and WAC 246-260). A serious injury means someone has called for emergency aid (such as 911) and the person needs immediate medical treatment at a clinic or emergency room or has been admitted to a hospital.
Use one form for each injured person. DO NOT include their personal information (such as name, address, phone number, etc.)

- Local Health Departments: www.doh.wa.gov/localhealth
- State Department of Health: www.doh.wa.gov/watersafetycontact or 360-236-3330

**Water Recreation Facility
Illness Report Form**



Reporting Requirement: The owner or operator **MUST** report any illness associated with a water recreation facility to their local health department (preferred) or the state Department of Health within 48 hours (RCW 70.90, WAC 246-260, and WAC 246-262). Illness, in this case, means a communicable disease associated with the water recreation facility. *Use one form for each injured person. DO NOT include their personal information (such as name, address, phone number, etc.)*

- Local Health Departments: www.doh.wa.gov/localhealth
- State Department of Health: www.doh.wa.gov/watersafetycontact or 360-236-3330

Name of Facility: _____ Facility Phone: () - _____


Facility Address: _____ County: _____

Ill Person's Age: _____ Ill Person's Gender: Female Male Unknown Other:

Daily & Weekly Logging

Once Daily	Once Weekly	As Occurs
Disinfectant: free chlorine or total bromine	Alkalinity	Chemicals added
Combined or total chlorine	Cyanuric acid (if used)	Fecal incidents
pH		2x a year tests of emergency shut-off or secondary entrapment prevention devices (i.e., SVRS)
Temperature		
Flow rate		Tests of interlock for chemical controllers per manufacturers instructions
Water clarity		

Keep a log sheet!



Swimming Pool Log Sheet

Pool Name _____ **Month** _____ **Year** _____ **Size of Pool (gallons)** _____ **Flow Rate Required (GPM)** _____
Type of Disinfectant _____ **Minimum of 1.5 PPM if inorganic chlorine, 2.0 PPM if stabilized or organic, and 2.5 PPM if Bromine.**

		Daily Tests					Weekly Tests		Chemicals Added		Maintenance & Notes	
Date	Water Clarity	Disinfectant: Free Chlorine Residual Non-stabilized: 1.5 to 10.0 PPM Stabilized: 2.0 to 10.0 PPM		Combined Chlorine < 50% of free chlorine	pH 7.2-8.0	Flow Rate GPM	Alkalinity Rec. Range 60-160 PPM	Cyanuric Acid if used < 90	Quantity of Disinfectant Added	Other Chemical Added	Back-wash (BW), Vacuum (V), or Brush (B)	Other Notes
1												
2												
3												

- Keep a daily log sheet to monitor water quality and maintenance
- Log sheets available on website www.doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/water-recreation/regulated-facilities/owner-and-operator
 - Spa, Wading Pool, and Recirculating Splash Pad version
 - Also available in Spanish!

Record Keeping

Maintain for at least 3 years

- Fecal incidents
- Injury & incident reports
- Daily & weekly logs

For lifeguarded facilities:

Emergency response plan
Record of drills and in-service
training

SOFA compliance certificate

Maintain for the life of the SOFA



Questions?

Contact

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