



GUIDE TO PREPARING A SWIMMING POOL FOR AN OPENING INSPECTION

1. Mail yearly fees to Cobb Public Health or Douglas Public Health, Center for Environmental Health. If necessary update your application for a swimming pool permit and mail it along with the established fee. An application may be obtained at: www.cobbanddouglaspublichealth.org.
2. Remove the cover from the pool and clean any leaves and debris from the pool and the skimmers.
3. Inspect the pumps, filters and the flow meter on the return line and ensure that they are in good condition and functioning properly. The sand in the filters may require changing if it is excessively dirty or has hardened in the filter over the course of the winter. Check with a local pool service for assistance if needed.
4. Check the skimmers to ensure that they are all free flowing and unobstructed. Inspect the skimmer's equalizer check valves, float valves and weirs to assure that they are installed correctly and are in good working condition.
5. Evaluate the main drains to ensure that they are in good condition. Replace any missing or broken main drain grates.
6. Check the chlorinator to ensure that the lines are not clogged and that they are working properly.
7. Once the pool has been cleaned and the recirculation and filtration systems are working properly, begin treating the water and adjusting the chemicals. It may take several weeks to a month before the water is properly balanced. Check with a local pool company for assistance with your pool needs.
8. If the emergency telephone was disconnected during the winter, contact the phone company and restore the service. Make sure that the telephone is in good working condition and replace it if it has been stolen or vandalized during the off season.
9. Properly install and tighten all ladders and handrails. Check the bottom ends of the ladders and ensure that the rubber boot caps are installed. (This prevents the ladder from etching into the shell of the pool.)
10. Check to see if the water fountains, showers and other faucets are working properly and free of leaks.
11. Check fences and gates for damage and defects. The gates must be self-closing and self-latching. Make repairs as necessary.
12. Clean bathhouse facilities and stock them with toilet tissue, soap and paper towels. Provide trash containers in each restroom facility and at least one trash container within the pool enclosure.
13. Install safety equipment at the pool. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - An easily readable pool rules sign posted in a conspicuous location
 - A shepherd's hook attached to a minimum 12 foot, non-telescoping pole
 - A U.S. Coast Guard approved throwing buoy with a line attached that is 1 ½ times the width of the pool or 50 ft., whichever is longer
 - A multi-colored float line installed at the slope break, for pools greater than 5 feet deep
 - A 2 inch black strip on the top front edge of each step, egress or bench
 - Depth markers indicated in feet on both the tile line and deck surface at the shallow end, the slope break, deep end, and other required intervals.
 - "No Diving" marked on the deck with 2 inch (minimum) lettering at pool depths of 5 ft. or less
 - A properly supplied first aid kit.
 - A "Warning No Lifeguard on Duty" sign with 4 inch (minimum) lettering posted in a conspicuous location.
 - A sign noting the location of the pool phone and emergency use directions. (i.e. "Dial 911")

14. Test the pool chemicals with a DPD type pool test kit and adjust the chemicals to the proper levels:
 - Minimum chlorine residual (unstabilized):
 - Standard pool: 1 ppm
 - Spa: 3 ppm
 - All other pool types (wading, spray pad, interactive, water attractions): 2 ppm.
 - Minimum chlorine residual (stabilized/use cyanuric acid):
 - Standard pool: 2 ppm
 - Spa: 3 ppm
 - All other pool types (wading, spray pad, interactive, water attractions): 2 ppm.
 - Maximum chlorine residual (stabilized or unstabilized):
 - All pools: 10 ppm
 - Minimum bromine residual:
 - Pool: 3 ppm
 - Spa: 4 ppm
 - Maximum bromine residual:
 - All pools: 8 ppm
15. Call the Center for Environmental Health to schedule an inspection. (Cobb: (770) 435-7815/ Douglas: (770) 920-7311)
16. If the pool does not pass the initial inspection, correct the violations noted on the inspection and schedule a re-inspection. The pool may open only *after* passing an inspection.