



**The skimmer basket is your pool's first line of defense.**

*Check it daily.*

## What's in your skimmer basket?

The skimmer basket is your pool's first line of defense. It keeps the filtration system free of debris, like:

- Leaves
- Hair
- Band-Aids
- Toys
- Cans
- Insects
- Dead animals

### **Check and clean the skimmer basket daily.**

Full skimmer baskets slow filtration, cause water quality issues and result in more work to maintain your pool or spa.

### **Immediately replace cracked, broken or missing skimmer baskets.**

Missing skimmer baskets can allow children to put their hands or fingers directly into piping and become entrapped.

Compromised skimmer baskets allow debris to become trapped in piping and enter the pump itself.

### **Never put chlorine tabs into skimmer baskets.**

Water flowing through the skimmer basket will become highly chlorinated and can damage equipment, requiring costly repairs.

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Tacoma-Pierce County  
**Health Department**  
*Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

## Daily safety checks

Check water chemistry and safety equipment at least once a day. Sometimes you will need to close your pool or spa to protect patrons. The following are examples of when you should close your pool or spa until the issue is fixed.

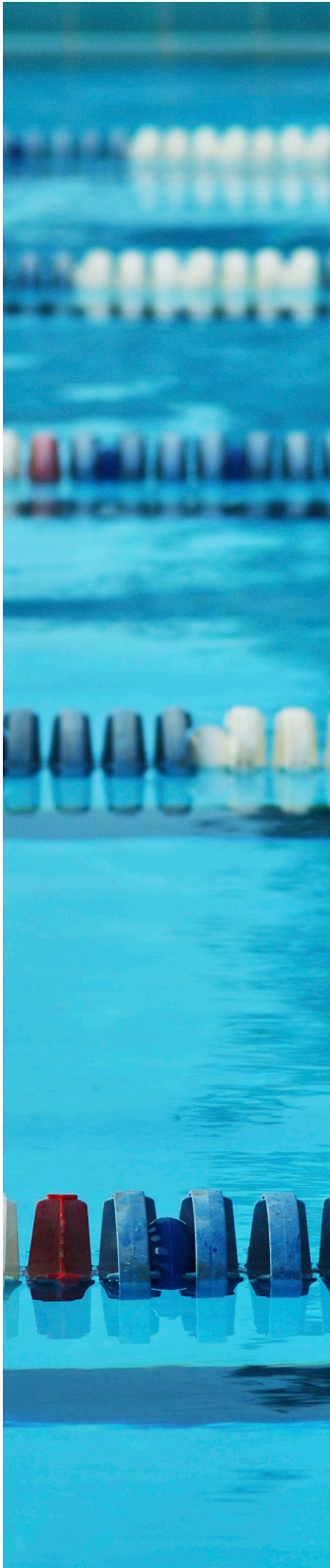
- Disinfectant too high or too low (see chart below).
- pH too high or low (see chart below).
- Spa temperature over 104°F.
- Main drain(s) not visible (poor water clarity).
- Main drain cover loose or missing.
- Barrier inadequate (like broken fence or missing slat).
- Gate or door into pool or spa area does not self-latch and/or self-close.
- Emergency shut-off not working.
- Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS) not working (required for pools or spas with one main drain or drains less than 36 inches apart).
- Chlorine or bromine feeder not working.
- Pump or filter not working.

### Acceptable Disinfectant and pH Levels

Use this chart to determine if your disinfectant and pH levels are acceptable or if you need to close until they are fixed.

	Pool				Spa			
	pH		Disinfectant*		pH		Disinfectant*	
Disinfectant	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
<b>Chlorine</b>								
Calcium hypochlorite (Cal-Hypo)	7.2	7.8	1.5	10.0	7.2	7.8	3.0	10.0
Lithium hypochlorite (Li-Hypo)								
Sodium hypochlorite								
<b>Sun-stable Chlorine</b>								
Dichloroisocyanuric acid (Di-Chlor)	7.2	7.8	2.0	10.0	7.2	7.8	3.5	10.0
Trichloroisocyanuric acid (Tri-Chlor)								
<b>Bromine</b>	7.2	7.8	2.5	10.0	7.2	7.8	4.5	10.0

\*Parts per million (ppm)



# When things go wrong

If your inspector finds critical violations during your inspection, you will be required to close your pool or spa.

The process you will need to follow to reopen your pool or spa will be explained in your inspection report. Always follow the directions in your inspection report.

## Reinspection

For some critical violations, you can reopen your pool or spa once all critical violations have been fixed. Examples include:

- Disinfectant too high or too low.
- pH too high or low.
- Spa temperature over 104°F.

Your inspector will return within ten business days to conduct a reinspection.

## Pre-opening Inspection

For some critical violations, your inspector must verify that the critical violations have been fixed before you can reopen. Examples include:

- Emergency shut-off missing or not working.
- Main drain cover loose or missing.
- Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS) missing or not working.

## Will I be charged?

Your first reinspection or pre-opening inspection are free of charge.

It is important to make sure all critical violations remain fixed. If your inspector finds any critical violations again, they will need to return for at least one more inspection—and each additional inspection will cost \$175.

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# Has your pool or spa changed ownership?

Permits are not transferable between owners. When a pool or spa changes ownership, the new owner has 30 days to submit a Water Recreation Facility Permit Application and purchase a permit.

Water Recreation Facility Permit Applications are available on our website at [www.tpchd.org/wrfpermitapplication](http://www.tpchd.org/wrfpermitapplication).

## What if only my UBI number changed?

A change in UBI number is considered a change in ownership.

You must submit a Water Recreation Facility Permit Application and purchase a permit within 30 days.

Questions? Call (253) 798-4430 or email [communitysafety@tpchd.org](mailto:communitysafety@tpchd.org).



## Making changes?

Even small changes—like changing the building or fencing around your pool or spa—can result in serious safety concerns. That’s why you must submit a Water Recreation Facility Plan Review Application to the Health Department before making most changes to your pool or spa. Water Recreation Facility Plan Review Applications are available on our website at [www.tpchd.org/wrfplanreviewapplication](http://www.tpchd.org/wrfplanreviewapplication).

Common changes that require review include:

- **Remodeling a pool cabana.** Cabanas are often part of the fencing or “barrier” that prevents small children from entering the pool. New windows or doors may let small children into the pool area. Sliding glass doors and fire exits may not open into a pool area.
- **Changing a pump.** Bigger is not always better. Installing a pump with more horsepower can create dangerous entrapment hazards at skimmers and main drains due to increased suction.
- **Replacing a fence.** The fencing or “barrier” around your pool or spa is a big deal. It prevents small children from drowning. The wrong type of fencing or gates can allow small children to climb over or slip through. It can take less than a minute for a child to stop struggling and slip under the surface of the water.
- **Replacing drain covers.** Review is required unless you are replacing an ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 (2007) rated cover with an identical cover. Drain covers are designed to work with specific sumps, water flows and installation types. The wrong cover can create an entrapment hazard and compromise the safety of your swimmers.

Not sure if your change requires review? Just ask! Call (253) 798-4430, email [communitysafety@tpchd.org](mailto:communitysafety@tpchd.org) or ask your inspector.



### Want to learn more?

Attend our **free** Pool Operator Basics class. Learn the fundamentals of pool chemistry and equipment. No registration required.

Tuesday, June 21, 2016, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Health Department auditorium

For more information, call (253) 798-4430.



## Parting splash

Keeping your pool or spa clean and safe is in everyone’s best interest.

We look forward to a safe and fun pool season!



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