

Pool / Spa Closure Policy

Critical Violations That Necessitate a Pool / Spa Closure

1. Not submitting a replacement permit application within 10 days (.06-1E)
2. A barrier violation with a lifeguard on duty except for (.21)
 - a. Entry gate has a latch release at 54 inches or greater
 - b. Entry gate electronic or combination mechanical release located between 34 and 48 inches
 - c. Entry gate is hung to open away from pool / spa
3. A barrier violation without a lifeguard on duty except for (.21)
 - a. Entry gate is hung to open away from pool / spa
 - b. Entry gate is self-closing and self-latching
4. If the flow rate is 10% higher or lower than required and records are not being maintained every hour
5. Meeting both the following conditions at the same time
 - a. The flow is over 10% higher or lower than required and
 - b. One or more of the water quality parameters meets the criteria for a major violation
6. A vacuum line that is on and not capped (.28)
7. A suction outlet cover that is missing, broken or cracked (.28)
8. A non-functioning 911 emergency phone (.40B)
 - a. Not providing the facility name or address next to emergency phone (.40B)
9. Not providing a lifeguard when required or providing their certification (.40D)
10. Not providing CPR / First Aide trained personnel when required (.40E)
11. Not providing a CPO on site at a recreational pool (.43A)
12. Unable to clearly see the main drain and have it sharply defined (.45A7)
13. Water that is not free of pathogenic organisms (.48B)
14. Not adding chemicals per the manufacturer's instructions
15. A pH level below 6.8 or above 8.2
16. A free chlorine level in a:
 - a. Pool is less than 1.0 ppm
 - b. Wading pool or therapy pool is less than 3.0 ppm
 - c. Spa is less than 4.0 ppm
17. A free chlorine level in a public pool or spa is greater than 11.0 ppm
18. A bromine level in a:
 - a. Pool is less than 3.0 ppm
 - b. Spa, wading pool or therapy pool is less than 4.0 ppm
19. A bromine level in a public pool or spa is greater than 11.0 ppm
20. The temperature in a mechanically heated:
 - a. Pool is above 96 degrees
 - b. Spa is above 104 degrees
21. Hand feeding chemicals while patrons are in the water
22. Insufficient illumination such that the bottom of pool or spa is not clearly visible
23. A violation that if not corrected immediately could cause injury, illness or death (example: light out of niche)

The operator will be given 30 minutes to arrive on site. Once they arrive or if they are on site have them sign the voluntary closure agreement. The facility may re-open once the critical violation has been corrected. If they refuse to sign the voluntary agreement and the critical violation has not been corrected then a Health Department closure sign will be hung.

Major Violations That May Necessitate a Pool / Spa Closure

The following major violations, if not corrected within 24 hours will necessitate a facility closure:

1. A semi-public pool / spa entry gate that is not self-closing or self-latching (.21B2)
2. Any circulation system component violation as defined under .25 such as (.25)
 - a. Broken or missing influent and effluent gauges
 - b. Broken or missing vacuum or compound gauge
 - c. Broken, missing, stuck or unreadable flow meter
 - d. A thermometer on the return line if a heater is installed
3. Not completing the Entrapment Hazards Checklist prior to the facility opening (.28I)
4. Any chemical storage area violation as defined under .29 such as (.29)
 - a. Not providing a lockable door
 - b. Not providing ventilation
 - c. Not providing lighting
 - d. Not storing chemicals in accordance with Safety Data Sheets
5. Even illumination of water, deck, and walkways, if open after dark (.32A)
6. Not providing safety equipment as defined under .40 except for (.40)
 - a. Those listed under the critical violations
7. Not maintaining the records as defined under .46 (.46)
8. Not maintaining the required coliform bacteria level (.48A)
9. A pH level in a public pool or spa that is:
 - a. Between 7.0 - 7.2
 - b. Between 7.8 - 8.0
10. A free chlorine level in a:
 - a. Pool is between 1.0 ppm – 1.5 ppm
 - b. Pool, Spa, Wading pool is between 10.0 ppm – 11.0 ppm
11. A bromine level in a pool, spa or wading pool between 8.0 ppm – 11.0 ppm
12. A temperature in a mechanically heated pool between 89F – 96F except for a therapy pool
13. A cyanuric acid level greater than 100 ppm.
14. A non-functioning disinfection system

A major violation if not corrected within 24 hours, could lead to injury, illness or death. The operator shall email Worcester.Pools@Maryland.gov once the violation has been corrected with the corrective action, if not, this office may choose to conduct a follow up. If the inspector chooses a follow up it will be conducted within 1-2 business days. If the violation is still outstanding, the facility will be closed.