

	Manual: Environmental Health Services
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Prepared By:	Original Policy Date: 01-02-86
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Authorized By: Ben Gale, Director	Effective Date: 01-02-86
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TITLE: Swimming Pool and Spa Closure	

AUTHORITY:

The Design, Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Public Swimming Pools. (Excerpts from the: California Health and Safety Code, California Administrative Code, Uniform Building Code.) California Administrative Code Title 22 Chapters 20 sections 65527, 65529, 65531, and 65545.

POLICY:

It is the goal of this division to maintain public and semi-public pools and spas in a clean, healthful and safe condition. It may be necessary occasionally to require the closure of a pool or spa when the above condition cannot be maintained. Serious valid violations of the safety and health provisions of the swimming pool code and sound judgment are necessary to require closure. There are two ways in which pool closure may occur:

- A. Immediate closure due to an imminent health and safety hazard. Water clarity is the primary reason for immediate closure of the pool or spa. If the main drain of the pool is not visible from the deck, the pool shall be closed. Other imminent safety and health hazards may exist which may necessitate the immediate closure of a pool or spa. (i.e.) 1) Drain cover not attached. 2) Lack of recirculation. 3) Lack of disinfection. 4) Two consecutive bad bacteriological analyses, 5) Fecal, vomitus, or dead animal incident which has not been remediated through adequate cleaning and disinfection, 6) Use of non-potable water in the pool or spa. When the EHS determines that closure is warranted by the conditions observed, he/she should contact his/her supervisor by phone to gain concurrence for the closure. If closure is warranted due to the lack of water clarity or a missing drain cover the EHS is directed to immediately close the pool or spa and then call the supervisor for concurrence.

Note: It is not necessary to close a pool or spa for lack of disinfection if the situation is corrected immediately while EHO is on site. However, manual addition of disinfecting chemical by hand dosing is NOT an acceptable correction for the lack of disinfection. Disinfection and recirculation equipment must be made fully operational and functional in order to avoid closure for this particular issue.

- B. Closure due to repeated violations of the swimming pool code requires an office hearing and a determination by the hearing officer. Repeated violation of the same item

such as artificial pool deck coverings, lack of functional chlorinator, lack of safety equipment, etc. may necessitate the closure of the pool in order to gain compliance. Bacteriological and chemical quality of the pool or spa water may also be a cause for closure when the standards are consistently being violated. Non payment of the pool permit may also necessitate an office hearing and subsequent pool or spa closure.

PROCEDURES:

1. If it becomes necessary to immediately close a pool or spa because of an imminent health or safety hazard, this procedure is to be followed by the EHS:
 - A. Document the condition on the swimming pool inspection report.
 - B. Take necessary pictures for evidence.
 - C. Contact the supervisor or his/her replacement to gain concurrence prior to closing the pool.
 - D. If water clarity or a missing drain cover is the reason for closure, it is not necessary to contact the supervisor prior to closing the pool or spa but the supervisor should be contacted as soon as possible after the closure.
 - E. Discuss the problem with the owner or the operator if the owner is not available.
 - F. Post a swimming pool closure sign and caution tape if the pool and spa are in one enclosure but only one of the facilities is being closed.
 - G. Schedule a recheck date with the owner/operator to verify correction of the violations.
 - H. Return on the scheduled day and reopen the pool or spa if corrections have been made.
2. If pool closure is necessary because of repeated violations:
 - A. The EHS will document the violations on the initial investigation report giving the owner/operator an appropriate amount of time to make corrections.
 - B. The EHS should conduct two reinspections if necessary to verify if corrections have been made. Keep the supervisor informed of progress on the case. Take necessary pictures for evidence.
 - C. If the owner/operator has not made the necessary corrections, schedule a date for an office hearing through the supervisor.
 - D. The hearing officer will determine if closure is indicated and set conditions for reopening.

- E. If closure is indicated, the EHS will post the pool or spa with a swimming pool closure sign and schedule a date with the owner/operator to verify compliance with the conditions of the hearing officer.
- F. The EHS will return on the scheduled day and reopen the pool or spa if corrections have been made.
- G. When a pool or spa has been closed because of two consecutive illegal bacteriological analyses, the pool must receive a legal sample in order to reopen.