



**Water Recreation Program**

1101 West College Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99201-2095  
509.324.1560 ext. 4

[www.srhd.org](http://www.srhd.org)

## Pre-Opening Checklist for Pools and Spas

### 1. Barriers

(changes require plan review)

- Fences intact and at proper height
- Gates in working condition and self-closing
- Latches self-latching

### 2. Walking Surfaces

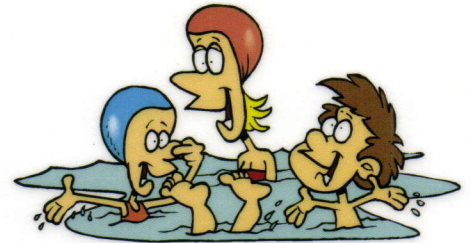
- Surfaces clean and in good repair
- Proper drainage
- Deck in good condition - no trip hazards
- Lighting minimum 10 foot candles if operated after dusk

### 3. Emergency/Safety Equipment

- Phone provided and operable (make test call)
- Throwing ring or similar device with attached rope in plain view and easily accessible
- Reaching pole with shepherd's hook in plain view and accessible
- First aid kit (16 units)
- One blanket
- Backboard if facility is lifeguarded
- Emergency shut off switch and alarm working and audible (test and document)

### 4. Water Quality

- Fresh chemicals for test kit
- pH 7.2 to 8.0
- Disinfection level proper
- Water clarity good (can clearly see main drain and pool bottom)
- Spa temperature less than 104° F
- Cyanuric acid (if using stabilized chlorine) at or below 90 ppm
- Total alkalinity tested at least weekly



Continued...

## 5. Physical Components

- Main drain grates in good condition and properly secured
- Weirs (flaps or floating) in skimmers
- Handrails secure
- Diving boards (including mounting hardware and steps) in good repair
- Stair treads visible
- Stair edge contrasting color visible
- Depth markings visible on the deck and sidewall
- Smooth sides, no rough edges, no protrusions
- Float or marking line in place at drop-off
- Pool/spa surfaces clean
- Skimmer baskets clean, in place, and provided as required

## 6. Signage/Notification of Users

- Most current rules sign posted
- Location of emergency phone and first aid kit on sign
- Annual notification of pool/spa rules for users

## 7. Equipment and Equipment Room

- Pumps and filters working
- Flow meter working
- Spare filter for each cartridge filter

## 8. Locker Rooms and Restrooms

- Properly maintained and operating
- Shower temperature 90-120° F
- Toilet paper available
- Soap available at sinks

## 9. Lifeguarded Facilities

- Lifeguards and attendants have current first aid, CPR and lifeguard certification
- Lifeguards stationed to ensure 30 second response time
- Lifeguard response drills planned

## 10. Miscellaneous

- SRHD permit application completed and fee paid
- Check previous SRHD inspection report form for violations requiring correction
- Pool/spa chemical testing log available







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## Required pH and Disinfectant Levels

All Pools & Spas	Minimum pH	Maximum pH
pH	7.2	8.0

Swimming Pools	Minimum disinfectant level	Maximum disinfectant level
<b>Chlorine*</b> Gas, liquid, and HTH granules (Calcium Hypochlorite)	1.5 ppm	10.0 ppm
<b>Stabilized Chlorine*</b> Tablets or granules containing <i>Dichlor</i> or <i>Trichlor</i>	2.0 ppm	10.0 ppm
<b>Bromine</b>	2.5 ppm	10.0 ppm

Spas & Wading Pools	Minimum disinfectant level	Maximum disinfectant level
<b>Chlorine*</b> Gas, liquid, and HTH granules (Calcium Hypochlorite)	3.0 ppm	10.0 ppm
<b>Stabilized Chlorine*</b> Tablets or granules containing <i>Dichlor</i> or <i>Trichlor</i>	3.5 ppm	10.0 ppm
<b>Bromine</b>	4.0 ppm	10.0 ppm

\*Chlorine is measured as residual free chlorine. Disinfectant levels that fall below or above the minimum and maximum levels may result in immediate closure.

## pH & Disinfectant Levels - Testing & Record Requirements

### What type of test kit is required?

A test kit that accurately measures free and combined chlorine, pH, alkalinity, cyanuric acid (when used), and any other chemicals used in the pool. Test strips and OTO test kits do not meet the requirements.

### What other records am I required to keep?

- All chemical additives (type and amount)
- Maintenance activities
- \*Injury and illness reports/drownings, near drownings
- Any incident of visible pool water contamination (including feces, blood, or vomit)

Records must be kept for at least three years and be available for inspection.

### How often am I required to test?

As often as necessary to maintain proper water quality, but at a minimum:

#### Once per day:

- Free chlorine, combined chlorine and pH
- Spa water temperature when above 95° F (not to exceed 104° F)
- Flow rate

#### Once per week:

- Total alkalinity
- Cyanuric acid (if using stabilized chlorine the level must not exceed 90 ppm)

## Top 10 Pool Violations:

From 2006–October 2008

### Violation number/description

1. 5300 Monitoring and recordkeeping improperly maintained
2. 5100 Signage required is not conspicuously posted or lacks required elements
3. 4500 First aid kit (16-unit) and/or accessible emergency blanket not provided
4. 1020 Skimmer weirs not in place
5. **0111** Disinfectant level very low – below minimum
6. **0110** Disinfectant level very low – Closure
7. **0211** pH low – below minimum
8. 3100 Toilets, showers, or sinks unsanitary; lack of soap, towels or toilet tissue
9. **0830** Gates/doors are not self-closing
10. **0840** Self-latching mechanism is not adequate

**Red violation numbers** may result in a closure and will be associated with a re-inspection fee.

\*SRHD must be notified within 48 hours of any serious illness, injury, drowning or near drowning.








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## Chlorine: Free, Combined, Total... What Does It Mean?

-  **FREE CHLORINE** – When chlorine is first added to your pool or spa, it is available as free chlorine which acts as a disinfectant.
-  **COMBINED CHLORINE** – When the free chlorine attacks germs and dirt in your pool or spa, it becomes combined chlorine and is no longer available as a disinfectant.
-  **TOTAL CHLORINE** – Free chlorine plus combined chlorine.

### 1. Test for free chlorine.

You are measuring the amount of chlorine that is available to act as a disinfectant.

### 2. Test for total chlorine.

You are measuring free chlorine plus combined chlorine.

### 3. Calculate combined chlorine.

Subtract free chlorine from total chlorine.

**Total – Free = Combined**

### Chlorine level is good.

If the total chlorine is equal to or slightly higher than the free chlorine (**SAMPLE 1 AND 2**), most of the chlorine in your pool is available to disinfect the water.

### Time to drain or shock.

If the combined chlorine is greater than half of the free chlorine (**SAMPLE 3**), then there is not enough chlorine available to disinfect the water, and it is time to drain or shock the pool.

#### SAMPLE 1:



#### SAMPLE 2:



#### SAMPLE 3:



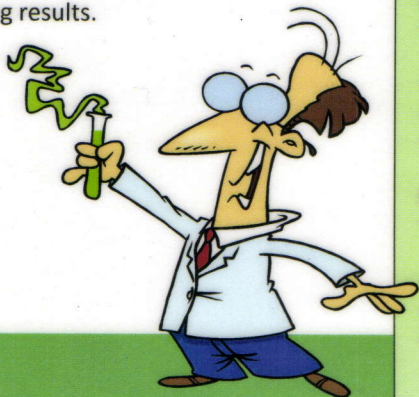


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## Hints for Testing Pool Water...

- Follow your kit's directions.
- Begin each season with fresh test chemicals.
- Rinse test vials thoroughly before taking a water sample.
- Take your water sample as deep as you can reach and far away from a disinfection inlet or source.
- Avoid touching test tablets with your fingers.
- Use a lid (not your thumb) when inverting tube.
- Use a white background and adequate light source when reading results.
- Store your kit in a cool, dry location. Do not keep your test kit close to any pool chemicals.



## Potential Problems

### Free Chlorine too low:

- ♦ risk of transmitting infections & diseases
- ♦ risk of algae growth

### Free Chlorine too high:

- ♦ uneconomical use of disinfectant
- ♦ bleaching of hair and swimsuits

### Combined Chlorine too high:

- ♦ irritates bathers' eyes and mucous membranes
- ♦ causes strong "chlorine" odor

### pH too low:

- ♦ pits concrete, wrinkles vinyl liners, corrodes equipment
- ♦ metal stains may appear
- ♦ promotes chlorine loss
- ♦ irritates bathers' skin and eyes

### pH too high:

- ♦ crusty deposits may form on contact surfaces
- ♦ may contribute to cloudy water
- ♦ poor chlorine disinfection
- ♦ irritates bathers' skin and eyes



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de Agua  
Recreación  
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5/2011

## pH Requerido y Los Niveles de Desinfectante

Todas las piscinas y balnearios	pH minimo	pH maximo
pH	7.2	8.0
Piscinas	Niveles minimos de desinfectante	Niveles maximos de desinfectantes
Cloro* Gas, líquido y granulado HTH (hipoclorito de calcio)	1.5 ppm	10.0 ppm
Cloro Estabilizado* Tabletas o gránulos que contienen dicloro o tricloro	2.0 ppm	10.0 ppm
Bromo	2.5 ppm	10.0 ppm
Balnearios y piscinas para niños	Niveles minimos de desinfectante	Niveles maximos de desinfectantes
Cloro* Gas, líquido y granulado HTH (hipoclorito de calcio)	3.0 ppm	10.0 ppm
Cloro Estabilizado* Tabletas o gránulos que contienen dicloro o tricloro	3.5 ppm	10.0 ppm
Bromo	4.0 ppm	10.0 ppm

**\*El cloro se mide como cloro libre residual. Los niveles de desinfectante que se encuentran por debajo del mínimo o exceder el máximo puede resultar en el cierre inmediato.**