

SWIMMING POOL SERVICE TECHNICIAN NEWSLETTER



Los Angeles County - Department of Public Health - Environmental Health - Recreational Waters Program

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RENEWAL FEES

The renewal fee for the Swimming Pool Technician and Apprentice Technician certification for fiscal year 2011/2012 has been raised to \$65.00. The cost to replace a wallet card or certificate is \$10.00 and can be obtained by contacting our office.

Please notify our office by mail or telephone if you move. We have no way of contacting you for renewal if the forwarding address expires. Individuals with accounts that are delinquent over two years will be decertified and be required to take the examination over again in order to become re-certified. The fee for taking the Swimming Pool Service Technician or Apprentice Technician Examination has been increased to \$184.00.

Fees for plan approval of new pools has also increased. In addition, the fee structure for pool renovations has changed. A complete list of fees can be found on our web site at:

http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/ep_rw_fee.pdf

You can contact our office Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at (626) 430-5360 or write to us at Los Angeles County, Environmental Health, Recreational Waters Program, 5050 Commerce Drive, Baldwin Park, CA 91706.

WEBSITE

Visit our web site for the latest information on swimming pools, plan check and renovation requirements, and the Technician Program. Go to:

http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/EP/rw/rw_main.htm

POOL CLOSURES

A public pool will immediately be closed if the following violations are observed during an inspection. The pool will be reopened only after all violations are corrected. Swimming Pool Service Technicians observing any of these conditions should close the pool until violations can be corrected:

1. Cloudy water or algae where the main drain is not clearly visible from the pool deck.
2. Lack of a disinfectant residual in the pool water.
3. A chlorine residual in excess of 10 ppm.
4. Chemical quality of pool water, including pH, that may have a detrimental effect on the health of pool users.

5. A broken, loose, or missing suction drain cover.
6. An electrical hazard that is an immediate threat to the health or safety of pool users.
7. A known or suspected fecal accident
8. Glass or other hazardous material at the bottom of the pool.

You should always make sure all drain covers are approved and properly secured with screws or fasteners, so that they are removable only with tools. Pools with broken, loose, or missing suction drain covers should be closed immediately and remain closed until repairs are made.

POOL ENCLOSURES

Part of your responsibility as a Swimming Pool Technician is to routinely check the pool enclosure. Insure gates and doors leading to the pool are self-closing and self-latching. Insure there are no missing or loose pickets or holes in the fence. If it is not your responsibility to make repairs, be sure and tell the manager, owner, or homeowner's association president about the items needing repair as soon as possible. Vinyl fencing is not an approved material.

FECAL ACCIDENTS

You can find the current actions to take in the event of a fecal accident at a pool on our web site at:

http://www.lapublichealth.org/eh/docs/ep_rw_fecal.pdf

PLAN APPROVAL IS REQUIRED WHEN RENOVATING OR CHANGING EQUIPMENT ON A PUBLIC POOL

All persons replastering, resurfacing or making modifications to the pool equipment or pool shell on any **public or commercial pool**, is required to submit plans to this Department prior to commencing the work and in advance of the issuance of any permits.

This Department requires all persons building a new public pool or replastering, resurfacing, renovating, or replumbing, an existing public pool to possess a valid California C53 (pool builder) or an "A" (general engineering) contractor's license.

Regarding compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Act, splitting drains or installing an unblockable drain will require a California C53 (pool builder), C36 (plumber) or an "A" (general engineering) contractor's license. A contractor with a C61/D35 may replace drain covers, install safety vacuum release systems and evaluate sumps, but cannot modify any sumps.

VIRGINIA GRAEME BAKER ACT

The latest updated information on the Virginia Graeme Baker act requirements can be found on our web site at:

http://www.lapublichealth.org/eh/docs/ep_rw_vgb.pdf

On October 11, 2009, Section 116064.2 was added to the California Health and Safety Code. This new section incorporates provisions of the federal Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Act into California State law and is intended to prevent suction drain entrapments and drowning. The new law requires that all public pools be retrofitted with approved drain covers manufactured after December 19, 2008. In addition, every suction drain on a pool must have a split (dual) drain or be equipped with a safety vacuum release system or an automatic pump shut-off system.

The new law requires that all public pools be in compliance by **July 1, 2010**. Since this date has passed, pools that are not in compliance should be closed and not be used until they are brought into compliance.

In May 2011, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced that eight manufacturers were voluntarily recalling pool and spa drain covers that were incorrectly rated to handle the flow of water through the cover. Use of the recalled drain covers could pose a possible entrapment hazard to swimmers and bathers. The CPSC advised that "consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed."

Please contact the manufacturer for replacement or retrofit if you believe that one of the recalled products was installed on a pool, spa, and/or wading pool under your control. Additional information on the recall can be found at the CPSC web site at:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml11/11230.html>

If a drain cover is replaced or retrofitted due to the recall, a plan approval is required by this Department.

UPDATE OF VGB ANSI/APSP STANDARDS

The ANSI/ASME standards for the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act have been updated. The new standard makes some changes in the way drain covers are tested. The new standard [ANSI/APSP-16 2011](#), supercedes the old standard [ANSI/ASME A112.19.8-2007](#). Beginning September 6, 2011, all drain covers are required to meet the new standard. You should begin seeing ANSI/APSP-16 2011 stamped on newly manufactured covers.

REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTALLATION OF VARIABLE SPEED PUMPS

1. For installation on new pool construction, the plumbing and equipment must be sized to accommodate the maximum flow of the pump at 60 feet of head at the highest rpm.
2. For existing pools, installation will be allowed only when plumbing and equipment is sized to accommodate the maximum flow of the pump at 60 feet of head at the highest rpm.
3. A new flowmeter must be installed.
4. The pump's lockout flowrate and timer must be set to provide at least the minimum required turnover rate and length of time the pump is running which is whenever the pool is open for use and any additional time required to maintain the pool water clean and clear.
5. The minimum required flowrate for the pool must be labeled somewhere on the pump.

Installation of IntelliFlo pumps will be approved under the following conditions. There are two types of IntelliFlo pumps. The VF which stands for variable flow and VS which stands for variable speed. Only the VS has the SVRS (suction vacuum release system) built in.

IntelliFlo VF

1. For the IntelliFlo VF pump the flow rate is set at the factory. When a plan check is submitted for this pump, the contractor must submit paperwork from the manufacturer that specifies the serial number of the pump and what flow rate at 60 ft. of head the pump has been set at.
2. The plumbing and equipment must be sized to accommodate the pump's maximum flow rate at 60 feet of head set by the factory.

IntelliFlow VS + SVRS

1. Installation of this pump will only be allowed when the plumbing size of the suction line is at least 3" and the plumbing size of the return line is at least 2 1/2 ". These are the pipe sizes needed to accommodate the maximum flow rate of this pump.