Pool and Spa Suction Drain Covers

### Chemistry Requirements for Pools and Spas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Free Chlorine Level Min/Max</th>
<th>Cyanuric acid/stabilizer used</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>*Cyanuric acid (CYA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pools</strong></td>
<td>1 - 10 ppm Cl</td>
<td>2 - 10 ppm Cl</td>
<td>7.2 - 7.8</td>
<td>100 ppm max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spas, Wading, Pools, and Spray Grounds</strong></td>
<td>3 - 10 ppm Cl</td>
<td>3 - 10 ppm Cl</td>
<td>7.2 - 7.8</td>
<td>100 ppm max</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

› Chlorine becomes less effective in water with a higher pH
› Test the pool/spa daily. Keep daily logs

### Keep your pool safe and open

These are violations that can result in pool closure during an inspection:

**Chemistry and Temperature**

- Free chlorine is too low (below 1 ppm with no CYA or below 2 ppm with CYA) or too high (over 10.0 ppm).
- Spa closed if temperature is 105°F or above (max temperature allowed 104°F).

**Structure**

- Gate/door leading into pool enclosure does not self-close or self-latch.
- Holes, gaps, or openings in the pool enclosure greater than 5 inches.
- Main drain covers missing, damaged, loose, or not properly installed.
- Unapproved covers installed over main drain. Suction covers changed without EH&S approval.
- Equalizer line covers missing, damaged, loose, or not properly installed.

Spa temperature too high. Keep temperature at or below 104°F
Excessive Spa Temperatures

The California Health and Safety Code has set the maximum temperature allowed for spas at 104°F. Soaking in water over 104°F is associated with increased risk of heat stroke and drowning.

Spas with a temperature at or above 105°F will be closed until the temperature is at or below 104°F.

Tips

› Set your spa temperature for 100-102°F.
› Check the spa temperature routinely.
› Turn spa heater off during heatwaves.
› Add hose water to cool off an overheated spa.

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EH&S Plan Review Reminder

If you are changing your pump, filter, chlorinator, SVRS, drain covers, plumbing, or planning to resurface your pool – please call EH&S first to find out about plan review requirements.

(530) 752-1493

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Electrical

› Spa emergency shut off switch not operational.
› Spa emergency shut off switch is not clearly visible.
› Water is inside the pool light.
› Electrical wires behind pool light are exposed.
› Missing, malfunctioning, or improperly installed GFCI.

Recirculation

› Recirculation system is not operating while pool is open.
› Water is cloudy. Main drain is not visible from the deck.
› Automatic chlorinator is not installed or working.
› Flow rate exceeds suction cover GPM rating.

Notes regarding pool closure: Inspectors are not obligated to stay while repairs are made to correct violations. A reinspection must be completed and corrections observed prior to pool or spa being reopened.
New information about suction covers

New Information:
Flow ratings and sump requirements on drain covers are changing.

Why:
The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission changed the testing methods for drain covers. Most drain covers now have a lower gallon per minute rating or additional sump requirements.

What This Means to You:
Prior to installation, all drain covers must be submitted to EH&S for review and approval. Drain covers will no longer be considered “like for like”. The same make and model may not be approved as drain cover flow ratings have changed. Contractors and EH&S Plan Review are responsible for ensuring that drain covers for each system meet adequate gpm rating to ensure safety.

EH&S Plan Review Require the Following to Review Drain Cover Review:
- EH&S Plan Review minor remodel application.
- 2017 VGBA specification sheet for the proposed drain cover. Manufacturer date may be required for drain covers that do not meet 2017 VGBA specification sheet.
- Pipe diameter size for all suction lines located under drain cover.
- Sump information (e.g. existing or non-existing sump, complete dimensions of sump).

Only a Licensed Contractor may replace suction covers

The Contractor must have one of the following licenses: (C53, C36, C61, D35)
Replacing suction covers with the same make and model #
OR
Replacing suction covers with a different make and model #: Contractor must submit a Recreational Health Plan Review Application to EH&S Plan Review prior to starting any work. Once the application is approved and the work is complete, the contractor must submit a new AB1020 Compliance Form to EM&S within 30 days.

**** It is the pool operator’s responsibility to ensure that the contractor complies with these requirements****

Check your suction covers:
- securely attached
- no cracks
- no broken pieces

Keep pool/spa closed until any repairs are complete.
Expired suction covers must be replaced

During routine inspections conducted in 2023, expired suction covers will be documented on the inspection report.

If you receive this notice on your inspection report, your suction covers need to be replaced.

Why do suction covers have a lifespan?

Suction covers used in pools and spas are made of materials that can degrade over time from exposure to water, chemicals and sunlight. Due to these factors, the Consumer Product Safety Commission requires manufacturers to mark their covers with the number of years it can be used safely under normal conditions. The lifespan is stamped on the cover and ranges from 3-7 years depending on the manufacturer and model number.

How to Identify Expired Suction Covers

When new suction covers are installed, an AB 1020 Compliance Form must be submitted to EH&S at rehs@ucdavis.edu

This form states the make/model of the covers as well as the date they were installed.

1. Find out the date your covers were installed. Check your records or contact the contractor who installed the covers to obtain a copy of your AB 1020 Compliance Form.
2. Look up the lifespan of your suction covers on the manufacturer’s website.
3. Count the number of years since it was installed and see if it has exceeded its lifespan.

If this cover was installed before 2018, it is expired!

Updates and Information

California State Pool Code – The codes that apply to public pools can be found through a link on the website: safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/units/ehs/pool-spa-safety