

Pool Regulations

Please be aware that this is not a comprehensive list of all the regulations. A complete copy of the regulations can be found at <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/poolspa/default.shtm> . If you have any questions concerning regulations or inspections, please contact the Food & Environmental Division at 210-207-0135. New pool regulations went into effect January 1, 2021.

Definitions (265.182)	
Class A	Any pool used with or without a fee, for accredited competitive aquatic events. These pools may be used for recreation.
Class B	Any pool used for public recreation and open to the general public with or without a fee.
Class C	Any pool operated for and in conjunction with lodgings such as hotels, motels, apartments, condominiums, mobile living parks, youth camps, homeowner associations, clubs, etc. or a school, college, or university. The use of such a pool would be open to occupants, members, students, or their guest, but not to the general public.
Wading Pool	If constructed on or after January 1, 2021, a pool with maximum water depth that is no greater than 18 inches and can contain PIWF (Public Interactive Water Feature). If constructed on or after 10/1/99 or before shall have a maximum water depth of 24 inches
Repair	The reconstruction or renewal of any part of a pool or spa for the purpose of its maintenance or to correct damage. Repair work may involve replacing like items or maintenance, such as periodic pool resurfacing or replastering. Repairs shall not cause existing systems to become unsafe, unsanitary, or overloaded.
Renovation	To return a pool or spa or any part of a pool or spa that may still be operational and functional, but that is outdated or has faded, declined, or deteriorated, to its former or original state, includes remodeling or rehabilitation of a pool or spa, and has the same meaning as the definition of alteration as found in the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC). Renovation of pool or spa shall not cause existing systems to become unsafe, unsanitary, or overloaded.
Unblockable Suction Outlet	A suction outlet defined as all components, including the sump and body, cover or grate, and hardware such that its perforated (open) area cannot be shadowed by the area of the 18 x 23-inch ANSI/APSP-16 body blocking element.
APSS	Automatic Pump Shut-off system. A pump motor control or other device capable of turning off, stopping, or otherwise incapacitating a pump in response to a condition such as high vacuum, low flow, or low current that would indicate a suction entrapment event has occurred.
SVRS	Suction Vacuum Release System. Also known as safety vacuum release system, is a system capable of providing vacuum release at a suction outlet in case of a high vacuum occurrence due to a suction outlet flow blockage. Methods include venting the suction line to atmosphere, turning off the circulation pump, or reversing the circulation flow.

Operations	
Turnover Rates (265.190)	Class A, B, C pools is equal to 1.5 times the average depth of pool in feet (not to exceed 6 hours) Spas – 30 minutes Wading pools – 1 hour
Off-Season Water Quality (265.190)	Clarity must be maintained and no algae present. (265.205) – Shall not give off odors or become a breeding site for insects.
Flow Measuring Device (265.190)	Listed and labeled to NSF Standard 50, NSF Standard 60, or NSF Standard 61 located to show the rate of flow through the filter. The flow rate measuring device shall indicate gpm and shall be selected and installed to be accurate within plus or minus 10 percent of actual flow.
Emergency Shut Off Switch For Spa (265.195)	Located within sight and located not less than 5 ft but not greater than 10 ft
Spa Water Temperature (265.197)	Maximum water temperature shall not exceed 104°F. They should have a means to indicate water temperature (265.208) – Must provide a break-resistant thermometer for patron and staff to monitor temperature
Operation And Management (265.205)	Pools and spas shall be maintained under the supervision and direction of a properly trained and certified operator. Not required to be on-site when open, may be responsible for multiple pools and spas, name and contact information needs to be available
Water Clarity (265.205)	Bottom is clearly visible. 8-inch black disc can be seen at deepest point

Suction Outlets (265.193) A suction outlet system shall be designed to protect against suction entrapment, evisceration, and hair entanglement or entrapment hazards in accordance with ANSI/APSP-16	
Wading Pools	24 inches or less and no PIWF – Shall not have fully submerged suction outlets. Skimmers or gutters shall be installed to accommodate 24 inches or less with PIWF – may have two or more suction outlets or a single unblockable drain
Pools Constructed Or Renovated After 1/1/2021	Shall have dual or three or more suction outlets and be 3 ft apart
Pools Constructed Prior To 1/1/21 And Have Single Point Suction	Are required to install a SVRS or APSS

Safety Features (265.201)	
Safety Float Line	Class A, B, C pools over 5 ft. Must have 4-inch minimum width on floor using contrasting color. If rope with buoys provided, must have secure floats and be securely fastened to wall or deck.
Depth Markers	<p>Pools – constructed or renovated on or after 1/1/99 - Must be in 4-inch lettering, and be metal tiles or letters, ceramic tiles, or engraved concrete, contrasting colors on deck and vertical wall of pool. Must have units of measure (FT, IN or M). Be at minimum and maximum water depths, on both sides and at each end of the pool.</p> <p>Spas – Must be in 4-inch lettering, and be metal tiles or letters, ceramic tiles, or engraved concrete, contrasting colors on deck and vertical wall of pool. Must have units of measure (FT, IN or M). No less than 2 depth markers for each pool.</p>
“No Diving” Markers	“NO DIVING” with international symbol clearly marked in contrasting colors at least 4- inch lettering. Every 25 feet where pool is 5 ft or less. Not required for spas
Signage	<p>Safety signs for pools constructed on or after the effective date of this subchapter or safety signs that are replaced at pools constructed prior to the effective date of this subchapter shall be in compliance with signage below:</p> <p>“WARNING-NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY” (Where no lifeguard required or provided.) – 4 inches Pool and Spa</p> <p>“NO DIVING” and International no diving symbol (Where no lifeguard required or provided.) – 4 inches Pool only</p> <p>“IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, DIAL 911” – 4 inches Pool and Spa</p> <p>Precise Location of the Pool on or with the Emergency Phone (address, or directions, or GPS location, or building number, as appropriate) – Minimum 1-inch Pool and Spa</p> <p>Hours of Operation – Minimum 2 inches</p> <p>Directions to and Location of Emergency Phone if Phone Not Visible in Pool Yard – Minimum 2 inches Pool and Spa</p> <p>Maximum User Load Limit – Minimum 2 inches Pool and Spa</p> <p>“PETS IN THE POOL/SPA ARE PROHIBITED” – Minimum 2 inches Pool and Spa</p> <p>“DO NOT SWIM IF YOU HAVE BEEN ILL WITH DIARRHEA WITHIN THE PAST 2 WEEKS” – Minimum 2 inches Pool and Spa</p> <p>“CHANGING DIAPERS WITHIN 6 FEET OF THE POOL IS PROHIBITED” – Minimum 2 inches Pool only</p> <p>“GLASS ITEMS NOT ALLOWED IN THE POOL YARD” – Minimum 2 inches Pool and Spa</p> <p>“PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 14 MUST NOT BE IN THE POOL WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION” – Minimum 2 inches Pool and Spa</p> <p>“EXTENDED BREATH HOLDING ACTIVITIES ARE DANGEROUS AND PROHIBITED” – Minimum 2 inches Pool only</p> <p>“DO NOT USE THE SPA IF THE WATER TEMPERATURE IS ABOVE 104 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT” – Minimum 1 inch Spa only</p> <p>EMERGENCY SPA SHUTOFF – Minimum 2 inches Spa only</p>
Emergency Equipment	<p>Ring buoy with throw rope</p> <p>Reaching pole – at least 12 ft long and made of material that does not conduct electricity and have a shepherd’s crook with blunted edges</p>
Emergency Summoning Device	<p>A pool or spa shall have a minimum of one emergency telephone, emergency monitoring contact device, or alternative communication system that is capable of immediately summoning emergency services and that is readily accessible, within 200 feet of the water, and is always functioning while the pool or spa is open for use. Where a pool or spa has a seasonal operation schedule, the emergency summoning device shall be functioning 24 hours a day during the entire season the pool or spa will be in use. Clear operating instructions for the emergency summoning device shall be provided.</p> <p>Shall not be answered by an on-site office.</p>
Enclosure (265.203)	<p>Class A or B – at least 6 ft, Class C – at least 4 ft, less than 4-inch between vertical members, must have self-closing and self-latching devices, open outward away from pool or spa. Must be able to be locked and propping gates open are prohibited.</p> <p>Class C – apartments, condos follow Chapter 757 for pool enclosure</p>

Required Chemical Levels (265.206)- **Pools should be closed IMMEDIATELY if chemical levels are not correct**			
Disinfectant	Minimum	Ideal	Maximum
Free Chlorine (Cl) – Pool	1.0 ppm	2.0-3.0 ppm	8.0 ppm
Free Chlorine (Cl) – Spa	2.0 ppm	3.0 ppm	8.00 ppm
Bromine (Br) – Pool	3.0 ppm	4.0–6.0 ppm	10.0 ppm
Bromine (Br) – Spa	4.0 ppm	5.0 ppm	10.0 ppm
Combine Chlorine (Cl)	None	None	0.4 ppm
pH	7.0	7.2-7.6	7.8
Cyanuric Acid	None	30-50 ppm	100 ppm
ORP(Oxidation Reduction Potential)	600 mV	650-750 mV	900 mV
Alkalinity	60 ppm	60-180 ppm	>180 ppm
Calcium Hardness – Pool	150 ppm	>150-400 ppm	1000 ppm

Calcium Hardness – Spa	100 ppm	150-400 ppm	800 ppm
Algae	None	None	None