

PROCEDURE FOR ACTIVATION OF SWIMMING POOLS

A pool must be put into proper condition for use after construction or after lying idle. If the pool has been winterized properly in the fall, it will be made easier and less expensive to open the pool in the spring. If possible, a professional pool servicing company should be employed to reactivate the pool at the start of each new swimming season.

Where the pool is used most of the year, it may be necessary only to resume normal operations of the pool. It is essential that all equipment be checked, properly maintained, and parts replaced as needed.

If it is economically feasible, a pool should be emptied and refilled every year. A pool with walls and bottom of inadequate structural strength should not be drained if the ground water table is higher than the bottom of the pool, as uplift could occur which would damage the structure.

The following procedures are considered a necessary minimum for the serviceman, the municipality, the apartment owner, the motel owner, the private club owner and the home pool owner for opening or re-activating a pool for normal operation.

1. Drained Pools

- a. Clean area around pool and pool deck. Remove all extraneous items from pool enclosure.
- b. Remove leaves and dirt, which have accumulated on the bottom of the pool. A pool cover will reduce accumulation of debris.
- c. Scrub down sides and bottom of pool. Use an acid solution to clean pool if finish is badly stained. Flush thoroughly.
- d. Examine pool carefully for frost damage and cracks, and repair as needed. Check and repair loose and cracked coping.
- e. When a pool liner is used, check for holes, and patch liner.
- f. Repaint poolsides and bottom as needed.
- g. Check hydrostatic relief valve in the main drain sump if provided.
- h. Close all drain valves, and fill.
- i. "Super chlorinate" or give pool water a "shock treatment" and bring chlorine residual up to 10.0 ppm.
- j. Start motor and recirculating system and vacuum pool bottom.
- k. Operate pump and filtering system continuously for twenty-four hours before using pool. Backwash filters as needed.
- l. Adjust dosage of chemicals as needed to maintain 7.2 to 7.6 pH and 0.4 to 1.0 ppm chlorine residual or its equivalent if other disinfectants are used.
- m. Fill the pool with water to normal operating level. If a hose is used, keep end of hose at least 6" above edge of pool.

2. Pools Left Filled

- a. Clean area around pool and pool deck. Remove all extraneous items from pool enclosure.
- b. Remove leaves and dirt, which have accumulated on the bottom of the pool. A pool cover will reduce accumulation of debris.
- c. If the water was lowered in winterizing the pool, clean sides of pool at water level.
- d. Examine pool carefully for frost damage and cracks, and repair as needed. Check and repair loose and cracked coping.
- e. When a pool liner is used, check for holes, and patch liner.
- f. Fill pool with water to overflow level and flush off surface debris. If a hose is used, keep hose at least 6" above edge of pool.
- g. "Super chlorinate" or give pool water a "shock treatment" to bring chlorine residual up to 10.0 ppm.
- h. Start motor and recirculating system and vacuum pool bottom.
- i. Adjust dosage of chemicals as needed to maintain a 7.2 to 7.6 pH and a 0.4 to 1.0 ppm chlorine residual or its equivalent if other disinfectants are used.

3. **Sand Filters (Omit steps a, b, and c if performed during winterizing)**
 - a. Remove manhole cover and examine the filter sand.
 - b. Break up any crust that may have formed on top of the sand. Dig down into the sand and determine its state of cleanliness.
 - c. If the sand contains mud balls or calcified chunks, it should be treated with a filter-cleaning compound in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Add new sand if needed.
 - d. Check gasket and tighten down filter tank head.
 - e. Close appropriate valves and tighten bottom drain plug.
 - f. Open appropriate circulation valves and air release valve until water comes out steadily, then close air release valve.

4. **Diatomaceous Earth Filters**
 - a. Close appropriate valves and tighten bottom drain plug.
 - b. Check and install filter elements.
 - c. Check gaskets and tighten down filter tank head.
 - d. Start pump and recirculation system and add prescribed amount of diatomaceous earth to coat filter elements.
 - e. Open appropriate circulation valves and air release valve until water comes out steadily. Then close air release valve.

5. **Pumps**
 - a. Install drain plugs to strainer pot and pump.
 - b. Install strainer basket and tighten lid.
 - c. Prime pump and start recirculation system.
 - d. Lubricate motor and other moving parts as needed.

6. **Chlorinators and Other Chemical Feeding Equipment**
 - a. Reassemble and test all chemical feeding equipment which has been dismantled.
 - b. Prime and start equipment following manufacturer's recommendations.
 - c. Obtain a supply of gaskets and other spare parts that may be urgently needed.

7. **Lights**
 - a. Examine all lights for signs of leakage and burned out bulbs.
 - b. Where leakage has occurred or for burned out bulbs, remove light from niche, disassemble, dry out or replace bulb, replace defective gasket and reassemble.
 - c. Have a qualified electrician check all fixtures for current leakage.

8. **Skimmers**
 - a. Remove covers or plugs used to winterize skimmers.
 - b. Reassemble skimmers.
 - c. Check to see if skimmers are functioning properly.

9. **Heaters**
 - a. Close bottom drain valve and fill heater with water.
 - b. Turn on fuel supply and light heater.
 - c. Check to see if heaters and vents are functioning properly. Check both shower water and pool water heaters.

10. **Recirculation System and Pool Piping**
 - a. Close appropriate valves and any special drain plugs in pool piping.
 - b. Install vacuum plug.
 - c. After system is operating, examine for leaks.

11. **Deck Equipment**
 - a. Install diving board if so equipped.
 - b. Install ladders.
 - c. Check for structural stability and repair if needed.
 - d. Place drinking fountain, cuspidor and foot sprays in operating condition.
 - e. Repair any loose, broken or chipped tile or other finish, which could cause injury.
 - f. Check deck drains for proper function.

12. **Chemicals**
- a. Store all water treatment chemicals in a cool, dry place, out of reach of children, and in a locked room.
 - b. Provide a fresh supply of orthotolidine and pH reagent for test kit.
 - c. Provide the proper chemicals, if needed, to maintain the correct pH of the pool water.
 - d. Keep normal supply of chlorine (or other disinfectant on hand at all times).
13. **Safety Factors and Equipment**
- a. Be sure the following basic items for life saving and minor first aid are in proper condition and readily available.
 - (1) Long, light-weight pole with blunt ends (Bamboo poles are often used.)
 - (2) Shepherd's crook.
 - (3) Life ring buoy with attached ¼" rope, at least twenty feet longer than the width of the pool.
 - (4) Coast Guard approved life jackets for toddlers or non-swimmers.
 - (5) Complete first aid kit.
 - b. Install safety rope to designate shallow end of pool.
 - c. Check fence, gate and lock for gate. Safety store duplicate keys.
 - d. Post a list of rules to follow while using the pool.
 - e. Post a list of telephone numbers to call in an emergency. Have a telephone readily accessible on the premises.
14. **Manpower and Management**
- a. Make arrangements to have a qualified lifeguard, or in some cases a responsible adult with knowledge of first aid and artificial respiration, on duty when pool is open for swimming.
 - b. Designate the duties and assignments of required personnel (public pools).
 - (1) Manager
 - (2) Pool supervisor, water safety instructor, certified lifeguard, etc.
 - (3) Maintenance personnel on premises.
 - (4) Local health department for sampling arrangements.
 - c. Be sure state operation permit is current and posted (public pools).
 - d. Check status of utilities, liability insurance and operation report forms.
 - e. If possible, post a completed "Swimming Pool Operation and Equipment List".
15. **Locker and Shower Rooms**
- a. Clean, and where needed, repair or paint, all walls, ceilings, floors, benches and equipment.
 - b. Make any repairs that are needed to the equipment.
 - c. Stock a sufficient supply of bath soap, floor and bench disinfectants and towels.
 - d. Turn on the water and electrical services to the building.
 - e. Be sure all faucets are operating properly and drains flow freely.
 - f. Be sure the hot water generating equipment, including flues, is operating properly and is in good mechanical condition.
 - g. Check for protruding nails, broken metal edges, broken or missing tiles, loose and cracked benches and other injury hazards.