

News Splash

Spring 2019

Pre-Season Opening Checks

Before opening your pool for the season, it's a good idea to do your own inspection to make sure it is safe. Be sure to:

- Make sure the doors and gates to your pool enclosure self-close and self-latch.
- Test your emergency phone.
- Restock the first aid kit.
- Replace your chemical test kit. Reagents expire and can go bad after cold weather.
- Make sure your skimmers have weir gates, baskets and float valves (if needed).
- Touch up depth markers on the pool deck if needed.
- Tighten your handrails and ladders.
- Check condition of your throwing ring and reach pole.
- Make sure your main drains are secure and in good condition. Replace them immediately if they are cracked or broken. You cannot open your pool until you have done so.
- Verify your Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act drain cover paperwork to make sure your drain covers are not due for replacement.

- Notify your residents of the pool rules for the season.
- Following these steps will ensure you have a safe pool for the season—and your inspections with the health department go smoothly.



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Coming soon—online applications!

You will soon have the option to submit new construction, remodels and resubmittal applications online. Look for this change in summer 2019.

Keep it hot—but not too hot

Your pool can be cool (no required minimum temperature), but your spa water temperatures should be 104 °F or lower to prevent hyperthermia. The bodies of young children have don't regulate temperature well. This is why children under age six should not use the spa. Make sure you have a thermometer to take your spa temperature daily.

Test emergency alarms

Is your pool, wading pool or spray pool equipped with an emergency shut off switch because you have not upgraded to dual main drains? If so, did you know that you are required to test the emergency shut off switch at least two times a year?

The emergency shut off switch must sound an audible alarm and shut off all the pumps. The switch should be within 20 feet of the pool and clearly labeled. If your emergency switch is not working properly, you must close the pool until it's repaired.

If you're interested in upgrading to dual main drains to make your pool safer and maintenance easier, contact communitysafety@tpchd.org for more information.

Gross pool facts

Each swimmer who decides to make a splash in your pool or spa can bring:

- 10,000,000 microbes on the hair.
- 8,000,000 microbes in a single drop of spit.
- 140,000,000,000 microbes in a gram of poop. A child can bring 10 grams of poop—the weight of 4 pennies!
- 1 to 2 soda cans worth of sweat.
- 1 cup of pee.

Keeping your chemicals in the appropriate range is important. Make sure to require your swimmers to shower before making that splash!



Making changes around the pool?

Although sliding doors and French doors are stylish, keep them away from the pool. They will not meet code entry requirements.

When remodeling a recreation building that shares a wall with the pool, doors and windows must meet pool code requirements. Windows cannot open more than four inches and doors must self-close and self-latch. If your doors do not have a card reader or code, latches must be at least 60 inches high.

Always contact the health department before making changes to avoid costly modifications or potential closure of your pool.

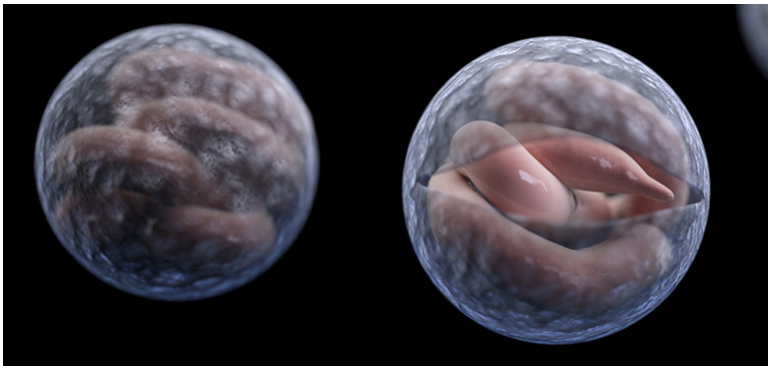
Keep clear of crypto!

Cryptosporidium, more often known as “Crypto,” is a parasite you can’t see. It lives in water and can survive in swimming pools, wading pools and spas for several days, even if chlorine levels are within an acceptable range.

Swimmers become infected when they swallow infected water. They can be sick for weeks, experiencing watery diarrhea, stomach cramps, vomiting and fever.

Because Crypto is so small, most pool filters cannot filter it out. It’s also very resistant to chlorine, and you would have to keep your chlorine levels above 20 ppm for 13 hours to kill it! As few as 2 to 10 parasites can make someone sick, so it is important to properly treat your swimming pool if you think someone sick swam in your pool.

If you are notified that someone got sick after swimming in your pool or swam in your pool when sick, contact us for help in closing and treating your pool. You must report illnesses to the health department within 48 hours. Use the reporting form you can find on our website.



“Crypto-homepage-image 2” by the Centers for Disease Control is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.

Planning on resurfacing?

Are you considering resurfacing or painting your pool? If so, remember your pool must be white or light in color.

Although that bikini blue color will make it look like your pool is a tropical oasis, having a dark colored pool can be a safety issue. Dark colors make it difficult to see the bottom of your pool. If you have questions about colors for your pool, give us a call. We can tell you if it is acceptable.



2018 (POOL) REFLECTIONS.

Last year Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department completed nearly 900 routine inspections for pools, spas, spray parks, wading pools and float tanks!



2019 POOL OPERATOR CLASSES.

Learn how to run a safe pool or hot tub. This basic pool operator class is free. No registration required.

Thursday, May 2, 2019, 9-11 a.m.

Thursday, May 30, 2019, 9-11 a.m.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Auditorium

3629 S. D St.

Tacoma, WA 98418

Questions?

Email communitysafety@tpchd.org or call (253) 798-4430 for more information.

Is your emergency equipment up to date?

Before the start of each season, make sure your first aid kit is well stocked. The following items are required:

Items	Units
24x72 inch absorbent gauze (one per package).	1
Adhesive bandages (16 per package).	1
Four inch bandage compresses (one per package).	2
Eye dressing (one per package).	1
Scissors.	1
Tweezers.	1
40 inch triangular bandages (one per package).	2
Individualized antiseptic pads (three per package).	1
Surgical gloves.	2 pairs minimum, 4 recommended
CPR mask (disposable or reusable).	1
Adhesive gauze, elastic or self-adherent wrap roll.	1
Cold packs.	1
First-aid cream or antibiotic ointment.	1
1/2 inch one inch rolls of tape (two rolls per package).	1
Butterfly bandage.	1
Knuckle or finger tip bandages.	1
Body clean up parts.	1
Emergency blanket.	1

The first aid kit must be accessible whenever your pool or spa is open. If you keep your first aid kit in the office and the office closes before the pool does, you will need to find a different place to keep your kit.

You must also have a telephone available for pool and spa users to dial 911 if needed. The emergency phone needs to be accessible within one minute to users.

Did you know? First aid kits not stocked was our second most cited violation in 2018!

Did you know? Your rule signs must say where your first aid kit and emergency telephone are located.