

News Splash

Spring 2023

Are your residents ready for the summer?

Make sure they know how to enjoy the pool safely!

If you operate a pool without lifeguards, you need to inform your residents of the pool rules at least once a year. Remember to share:

- If anyone is 12 years or under, an adult 18 years or older must be with the child at all times in the pool area.
- If anyone is 17 years or under, there must be at least 2 people in the pool area.
- Don't let anyone into the pool area if you are not responsible for supervising them.

Make sure your pool entrances meet code.

To keep children safe, your facility's gates and doors must meet several pool code requirements. Entryways must:

- Self-close.
- Self-latch.
- Have a latch 60 inches or more from the ground. If the latch height is less than 60 inches, the latch must:
 - Always lock and require a key or key code.
 - Have an 18-inch radius of solid material around it.
- Must lock.

These safety features help keep young children from entering into the pool area.

Check your emergency fire exits.

Many buildings have fire exits marked with signs above doors. To ensure fast and easy emergency exit, these exits should never lock or fasten.

Compared to pool area entrances, fire exits need to have lower latch heights so all ages can use the door. This means you cannot have a fire exit open into a pool area.

Does your fire exit enter into a pool area?

Contact your local fire department and our program to discuss safe solutions. Email us at communitysafety@tpchd.org or call (253) 649-1713.

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Does your pool lock?

Pools with no lifeguard must have doors that self-close and self-latch.

It is important to realize this does not always mean your pool locks.

A door that only self-closes and self-latches does not keep everyone out. When your pool is closed, you must lock the facility to keep your patrons out. A deadbolt or chain ensures the door will remain closed—especially important if the self-closing or self-latching mechanism fails.

Remember, when your facility is closed, your entrance must keep people out.

Make sure you can properly secure and lock your pool.

Need assistance or want to schedule a site visit with an inspector?

Contact communitysafety@tpchd.org.

If you don't write it down, it never happened.

Are your records up to date?

When you own or run a pool, you must keep proper records. You must keep records for 3 years of:

	Once a day	Once a week (at least)
Disinfectant levels	X	
pH levels	X	
Alkalinity levels		X
Cyanuric acid levels		X
Water temperature if over 95°F	X	
Quantity of chemicals added	X	
Treatment system flow rates	X	
Visible water contamination	Any incident.	

Not within the proper ranges? Write down your corrective action.
Did you add a chemical? Close the pool temporarily? If you don't write what corrective actions you took, you have no proof.

Before reopening, make sure your pool is safe for swimmers.
Test your chemicals again and record your final readings. Records help protect you to show your pool met compliance.

2023 Fee Updates

Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health adopted the 2023 Fee Schedule on Nov. 16, 2022.

What does this mean for you?

- Seasonal permit: \$510.
- Annual permit: \$816.
- Reinspection fee: \$204.
Your first reinspection is no charge.
- Compliance schedule follow-up: \$204.
If you correct the compliance schedule item by the time of the follow-up, there is no charge.

Questions?

Contact us at communitysafety@tpchd.org or (253) 649-1713.



Have you inspected your pool fence recently?

Your barrier is the first line of defense to keep unexpected people (and critters!) out of your pool. Landscaping may shift over time, trees and shrubs may grow, or new structures can reduce the effective height of the barrier.

Remember! A limited use pool requires a barrier that is at least 60 inches high. A general use pool requires a 72-inch high barrier. Measure from the outside of the pool enclosure area.

Check your barrier meets compliance!

You'll need:

- Tape measure. A sturdy stick measured to 60 inches (or 72 inches, depending on your type of facility) is also helpful.
- Rake or shovel.
- Clippers.

From the outside of the pool enclosure area, walk around the entire fence.

- Make sure landscaping is not pushed up against the fence, it can reduce the height. Rake away any landscaping materials that may have shifted.
- Check the bottom of your barrier. You should not be able to pass a 4-inch sphere underneath. If you can, add bark or soil under the fence.
- Use the pre-measured stick to hold one end at the top rail of the fence and swing the stick downwards to the ground. If the stick encounters anything in its path, it may be too close to the fence. Trim back any landscaping or move structures.

Watch out for these common ways a barrier's effective height is reduced:

- Chairs and tables shoved against the outside of the fence.
- Vehicles parked next to the fence.
- Hose boxes or garden reels.
- Lower fences connected to the pool fence that can offer footholds or handholds.
- Woody trees and shrubs that have grown larger and closer to the fence.



2023 Pool Operator Classes

Learn how to run a safe pool or hot tub.

We cover pool chemistry and basic operation. This basic class is free. You don't have to register.

- May 15, 9–11 a.m.
- June 15, 9–11 a.m.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Auditorium
3629 S. D St.
Tacoma, WA 98418

Questions?

Contact communitysafety@tpchd.org or (253) 649-1713 for more information.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PROGRAM

Contact information

We're available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact us if you have questions or to schedule a consultation.

Phone (253) 649-1713

Email communitysafety@tpchd.org