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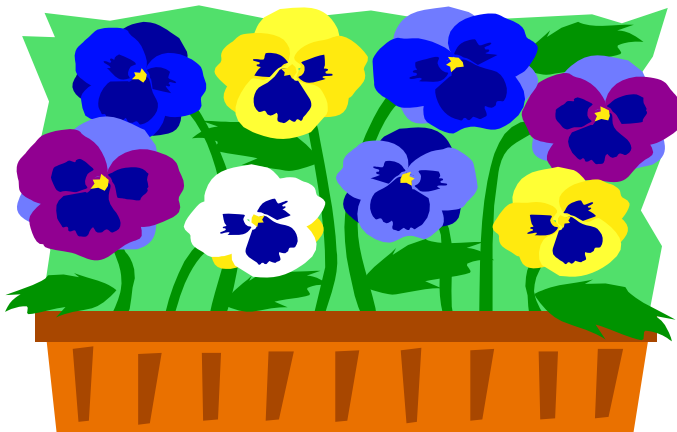
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## Be Prepared for the Opening Inspection!

So, you're ready to open up that swimming pool for yet another great season? Well, hold on a minute!

Before you can declare your pool open, a few requirements will have to be met:



1. Remember to check drain cover grates first thing after removing your pool cover. Cracked, broken, or missing drain covers present hair/body entrapment and evisceration/disembowelment hazards.
2. A license application must be completed and submitted to the Environmental Division of the health Department, along with the corresponding fee.
3. All pools must have a separate person in charge (PIC) registered with our office and on site to maintain your pool. If your PIC is no longer employed at your facility, a new one must arrange to take and pass our general knowledge test.
4. Documentation of passing pool water bacteriological test results must be submitted. Water testing must commence at least one week prior to your anticipated opening date.
5. Finally, passage of a prescheduled opening inspection is required. Making sure all violations are corrected and verified as being corrected by an Environmentalist.

# Keeping Afloat

Published by the Elkhart County Health Department

## Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act

As you all are well aware by now, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (the Act) went into effect on December 19, 2008. The Act promotes the safe use of pools and spas by imposing mandatory federal requirements for suction entrapment avoidance, and is being administered by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

### Mandatory Federal Requirements of Entrapment Avoidance are:

- **Safety Drain Covers.** Each swimming pool or spa drain cover manufactured, distributed, or entered into commerce in the United States shall conform to the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 or ASME/ANSI A112.19.8a-2008 certification. Compliance with this Standard will be enforced by the CPSC as a consumer product safety rule.
- **Public Pool Drain Covers.** Each public pool and spa, both new and existing shall be equipped with drain covers conforming to the ASME/ANSI standards as described above.
- **Public Pool Drain Systems.** Each public pool and spa with a **single main drain** shall be equipped with one or more additional devices or systems designed to prevent suction entrapment. In addition to a compliant drain cover, such additional devices or systems include a safety vacuum release system (SVRS), or suction limiting vent system, or gravity drainage system, or automatic pump shutoff system, or drain disablement, or other system determined by the CPSC to be equally effective in preventing suction entrapment.

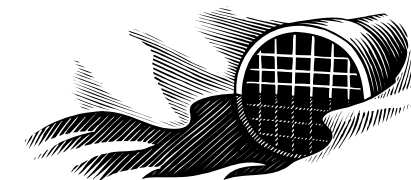
- Public pools and spas with **multiple drains** leading to one main pump, that are more than three feet apart, are considered to be unblockable and in compliance. However, all the drains must have the new ASME/ANSI certified drain covers that prevent entrapment and entanglement.

The CPSC web site ([www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)) is very helpful in guiding individuals in the process of coming into compliance under the Act. A list of equipment approved under the Act can be found at the following CPSC web site: <http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/vgb/drainman.html>

Environmentalists from our office will be inquiring whether each pool and spa has been provided with the approved equipment and making a note of which pools and spas are not in compliance. It will be the responsibility of the pool operator to maintain documentation of compliance for our review.

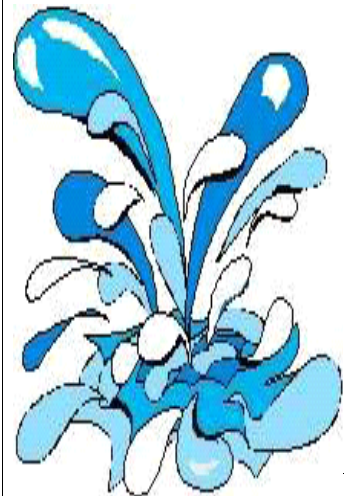
The passage of this act has raised many questions throughout the industry. Elkhart County Health Department staff will make every effort to answer your questions, or to send you to the proper source to resolve any problems that may occur in your attempt to come into compliance with this new legislation. Generally, Environmentalists maintain office hours from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., Monday through Friday.

Information Obtained from APSP & CPSC



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### Special points of interest:

- This newsletter is prepared annually by staff Environmentalist III, Gabriel Cameron.
- Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office @ 875-3391.

## Get Ready, Get Set...

Information Obtained From Kozen, K: "Check it Out", page 31. 'Aquatics International', May 2008



No matter how much you've prepared, there's always more to be done before you're ready to open the doors for the new pool season. Things might get pretty hectic in your run up to opening day, but there are a few things you'll need to deal with before you can get started on the big stuff.

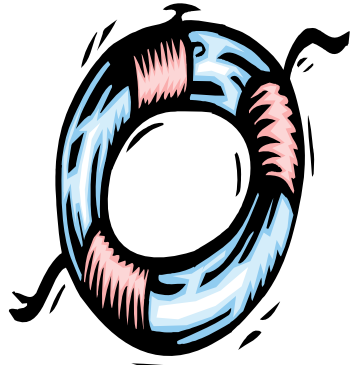
**ORGANIZE.** Being thorough is the key. Careful strategic planning is also essential. Also, remember that weather patterns may hold things up.

To help streamline the process, organize projects by trade, such as landscaping, painting, carpentry, HVAC or electrical. Make a separate list for each so you can coordinate work if you need a contractor to come out. It's good to have another person along when inspecting your facility to be sure everything is accounted for.

**Your patrons may be ready to dive into a new season, but is your pool ready for them?**

**UPDATE.** An important consideration is to make sure your chemical and maintenance contracts are in effect and everything in your facility is up to state and local codes.

Operators should look at inspection as a positive. It can help with budgeting if you can show that you need to have something to qualify as operational.



Self-inspections should be performed on all equipment, structures, and buildings to ensure that they're up to all applicable regulations.

**ORDER UP.** Remember to place orders for anything you need as early as possible to avoid back orders. Staff uniforms, chemicals, safety equipment, cleaning items, concessions, sunscreen and other protective gear and first aid supplies are among items to be

considered. Refer to past orders. Take time to properly clean and store winter items, including your pool cover and plugs. A little bit of extra effort will go a long way to maintain these products.

**COVER THE BASICS.** This includes making sure your water supply, electric, and phone service are back online.

Prep your cleaning equipment, tools, and testing supplies. They will take a beating during the season as well as during preparations, so you want to be sure to have everything you need and it's ready to go.

**CLEAN.** Regardless of your pool's condition during the off-season, your first steps should be cleaning. If the pool has been drained, start by sweeping out any large debris such as decaying leaves, dead critters, or trash. Do not try to remove this large material by pumping it out. Next, wash the entire surface and remove stains by following manufacturer's recommended procedures. If your pool has been covered, you'll have to pull out any large flotsam and vacuum.

You'll also want to clean and replace skimmer baskets, weirs, and lids. When reinstalling the hair and lint skimmer basket, remember to replace gaskets or o-rings and make sure lids seal tightly.

**INSPECT.** Go over the entire pool surface. Make sure there is no worn surfaces, cracks, etc. Check expansion joints, ladders, stairs, and handrails for any damage or rough edges. It is also important to see that all depth markers, lane lines, step edges, and other graphics are marked legibly and accurately. This may require painting or touch-ups.

Drains, grates, bolts, gaskets, and inlets will also require a close look. You'll need to inspect, replace, and re-secure drains and drain covers.

**REPAIR.** Once you fill the pool, it will be very difficult to do things such as repaint or fix tile, or lights. So make sure these things are done first.

Repairs could mean sandblasting, acid washing, chlorine washing, recoating, repainting, re-plastering, patching liner tears, or otherwise preparing the pool surface. When it comes to lighting, replace broken or burnt-out lights, check seals, lubricate bolts and see that all ground wires are connected. Make sure all deck furniture and equipment is cleaned and disinfected. Power wash entire deck area.

**TEST.** In filling the pool and balancing the water, a good place to start is by testing the incoming water. Know what the water chemistry is before you put it into your pool.

You'll also want to pressure test your circulation lines to make sure that pipes have not broken, and repair pipes before leaks develop. Test the manual air pressure relief valves on pressurized filter tanks as well.

**FILL.** Start filling your pool at least two weeks prior to your anticipated opening date. Start circulating and filtering water as soon as the water level covers the inlets.

Once you've filled the pool work to balance the pool water chemistry and start testing regularly. Make sure to record your results.

**FILTERS.** Assess the quality of your filtration medium. It should be loose, not caked or solid. The top layer of sand filters can be raked to remove any hair or lint. Thoroughly inspect the grid of DE filters to make sure they are not broken, which would require replacement.

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT.** Clean and check eyewash stations and make sure all

signage is clear. See that MSDS sheets are in place and current. Inspect, inventory, and clean all safety equipment, including lifeguard rescue tubes. This also includes prepping all record and data sheets and logs, as well as safety manuals and staff documents.

**CHEMICAL CONTROLLERS.** Make sure chlorinator controllers and feed pumps are installed and connected properly. Inspect and clean ORP and pH probes. Inspect chlorine feeders and replace tubing.

**WATER HEATERS.** You'll need to re-light the pilot light and check electrical connections. It is recommended to bring in an outside person to inspect your water heaters.

**PUMPS.** Reassemble circulation pipes, pumps, and motors if necessary. Drain and clean anything that has been filled with anti-freeze. Check all low grade pump areas and sump pump systems.

**METERS AND GAUGES.** Service and reinstall flow meters, pressure and vacuum gauges, thermometers, and hygrometers. Make sure labeling is clear and legible on all gauges and other equipment.

**SIGNAGE.** Take the time to see that your signage is in good condition. All signs should be updated, clean and posted prior to opening day. Make sure they're all legible and current.

**BATHHOUSE.** Make sure all cleaning and maintenance items have been addressed. If you are using your bathhouse as a winter storage area, you'll need to plan to get everything out and cleaned well ahead of time.

**PREMISES AND ENCLOSURE.** Do a good visual check for environmental and vandalism damage. Make sure the enclosure is up to code, to include: a six foot high enclosure around entire pool, and that all entryways are self-closing, self-latching, and can be locked.

**\*Note:** These are merely recommendations. If unsure of any problem, please consult a professional.



**Fitness Forum Sports and Wellness, located within the LifePlex facility in Plymouth, Indiana will be offering Certified Pool Operator (CPO) classes. For more information contact Marc Hayden at:**

**Mhayden @fitnessforum.biz**

