

2023 SWIMMING POOL/SPA NEWSLETTER

Prepare for your 2023 Pool/Spa Inspection

In Person Pool and Spa Workshops are Back!

*If you own, operate, manage or service Swimming Pools or Spas located at:
Apartment Complexes · Hotels or Motels · Condominiums · Homeowners Associations
Health and Fitness Clubs · Parks · Schools · Aquatics Facilities*

Come participate in a FREE training presented by the Environmental Management Department (EMD) Topics include: pool and spa regulations that apply to fencing/gates, signage, chemistry, records/daily logs, recirculation equipment, SVRS, suction covers and more.

Date and Time:

Wednesday, **May 10, 2023 9-11am**
Tuesday, **June 27, 2023 1-3pm**
Wednesday, **July 12, 2023 9-11am**

Location: Sacramento County EMD
11080 White Rock Rd, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Sign up by calling (916) 875-8440 or email EMDInfo@sacounty.gov (include facility name and number of attendees)

**Test the pool/spa daily
Keep daily logs**

Chemistry Requirements for Pools and Spas

	Free Chlorine Level Min/ Max		pH	*Cyanuric Acid (CYA)
	No Cyanuric acid/stabilizer used	Cyanuric acid/stabilizer used		
Pools	1 - 10 ppm Cl	2 - 10 ppm Cl	7.2- 7.8	100 ppm max
Spas, Wading Pools, and Spray Grounds	3 - 10 ppm Cl	3 - 10 ppm Cl	7.2- 7.8	100 ppm max

→ Chlorine becomes less effective in water with a higher pH

Keep your pool safe and open

These are violations that can result in pool closure during an inspection:

Chemistry and Temperature

- Free chlorine is too low (below 0.5 ppm) or too high (over 15.0 ppm).
- pH at or above 8.1 (required to be 7.2-7.8).
- **NEW for 2023** Spa closed if temperature is 105°F or above (max temperature allowed 104°F).

Structure

- Gate/door leading into pool enclosure does not self-close or self-latch.
- Holes, gaps, or openings in the pool enclosure greater than 5 inches.
- Main drain covers missing, damaged, loose, or not properly installed.
- Unapproved covers installed over main drain. Suction covers changed without EMD approval.
- Equalizer line covers missing, damaged, loose, or not properly installed.

Electrical

- Spa emergency shut off switch not operational.
- Spa emergency shut off switch is not clearly visible.
- Water is inside the pool light.
- Electrical wires behind pool light are exposed.
- Missing, malfunctioning, or improperly installed GFCI.

Recirculation

- Recirculation system is not operating while pool is open.
- Water is cloudy. Main drain is not visible from the deck.
- Automatic chlorinator is not installed or working.
- Flow rate exceeds suction cover GPM rating.

Notes regarding pool closure: Inspectors are not obligated to stay while repairs are made to correct violations. A reinspection must be completed and corrections observed prior to pool or spa being reopened.



*Spa temperature too high.
Keep temperature at or
below 104°F*

Excessive Spa Temperatures

The California Health and Safety Code has set the maximum temperature allowed for spas at 104°F. Soaking in water over 104°F is associated with increased risk of heat stroke and drowning.

Spas with a temperature **at or above 105°F will be closed** until the temperature is at or below 104°F.

Tips

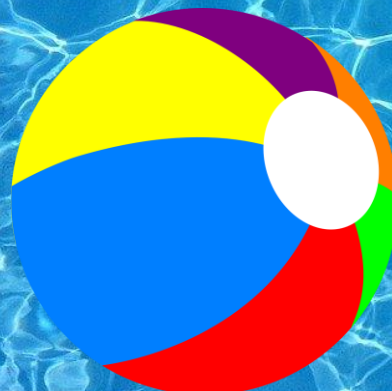
- ✓ Set your spa temperature for 100-102°F.
- ✓ Check the spa temperature routinely.
- ✓ Turn spa heater off during heatwaves.
- ✓ Add hose water to cool off an overheated spa.



EMD Plan Review Reminder

If you are changing your pump, filter, chlorinator, SVRS, drain covers, plumbing, or planning to resurface your pool – please call EMD first to find out about plan review requirements.

(916) 874-6010



Attention Pool/Spa Contractors and Pool/Spa Owners

New information about suction covers

New Information:

Flow ratings and sump requirements on drain covers are changing.

Why:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission changed the testing methods for drain covers. Most drain covers now have a lower gallon per minute rating or additional sump requirements.

What This Means to You:

Prior to installation, all drain covers must be submitted to EMD Plan Review for approval.

Drain covers will no longer be considered "like for like".

The same make and model may not be approved as drain cover flow ratings have changed. Contractors and EMD Plan Review are responsible for ensuring that drain covers for each system meet adequate gpm rating to ensure safety.

EMD Plan Review Require the Following to Review Drain Cover Review:

- EMD Plan Review minor remodel application and fee payment.*
- 2017 VGBA specification sheet for the proposed drain cover. Manufacturer date may be required for drain covers that do not meet 2017 VGBA specification sheet.*
- Pipe diameter size for all suction lines located under drain cover.*
- Sump information (eg. existing or non-existing sump, complete dimensions of sump).*

Only a **LICENSED CONTRACTOR** may replace suction covers

The Contractor must have one of the following licenses: (C53, C36, C61, D35)



Replacing suction covers with the same make and model #

OR

Replacing suction covers with a different make and model #:

Contractor must submit a Recreational Health Plan Review Application to EMD Plan Review prior to starting any work. Once the application is approved and the work is complete, the contractor must submit a new AB1020 Compliance Form to EMD within 30 days.

****** It is the pool operator's responsibility to ensure that the contractor complies with these requirements ******

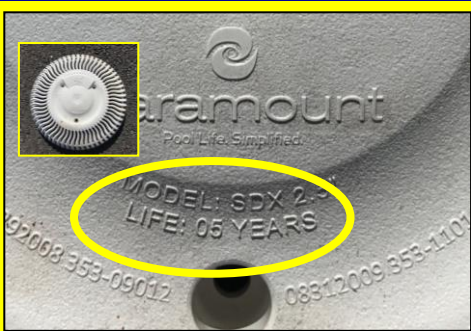


Check your suction covers:

- securely attached**
- no cracks**
- no broken pieces**

Keep pool/spa closed until any repairs are complete.

EXPIRED SUCTION COVERS MUST BE REPLACED



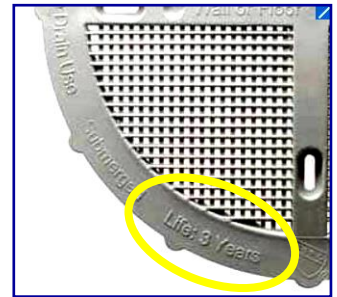
***If this cover was installed before 2018,
it is expired!***

During routine inspections conducted in 2023, expired suction covers will be documented on the inspection report.

If you receive this notice on your inspection report, your suction covers need to be replaced.

Why do suction covers have a lifespan?

Suction covers used in pools and spas are made of materials that can degrade over time from exposure to water, chemicals and sunlight. Due to these factors, the Consumer Product Safety Commission requires manufacturers to mark their covers with the number of years it can be used safely under normal conditions. The lifespan is stamped on the cover and ranges from 3-7 years depending on the manufacturer and model number.



How to Identify Expired Suction Covers

When new suction covers are installed, an AB 1020 Compliance Form must be submitted to Sacramento County EMD Plan Review. This form states the make/model of the covers as well as the date they were installed. Copies of this form were provided to the contractor by EMD upon approval.

- **FIRST:** Find out the date your covers were installed (it may be noted on your last inspection report).
 - Find previous inspection reports at: <https://emdinspections.saccounty.gov/pool.aspx>
 - Check your records or contact the contractor who installed the covers to obtain a copy of your AB 1020 Compliance Form. If the contractor is unable to provide the form, make a request through Sacramento County Public Records Act web portal.
- **SECOND:** Look up the lifespan of your suction covers on the manufacturer's website.
- **THIRD:** Count the number of years since it was installed and see if it has exceeded its lifespan.

Updates and Information

California State Pool Code – The codes that apply to public pools can be found through a link on the EMD website: <https://emd.saccounty.gov/EH/Pages/RecHealth.aspx>

New Management? – If your facility has changed ownership or management companies, please let us know! A new permit is required for all ownership changes. Help keep our records current and call us at (916) 875-8440 when your facility's contact information changes.

EMD Payments Online – You can use your credit card to pay health permit fees online.
<https://emdpayments.saccounty.gov>

Swim Safe and
Have Fun!