



Guidance for Worcester County Public Pools and Spas That Are Not Open to Patrons 05-27-2020

Maintenance for pools that are still winterized

- Pools must not create a public nuisance through stagnant water or insect breeding.
- Provide a nuisance mitigation plan if the pool will stay closed all summer. This plan can be emailed to bart.dorsch@maryland.gov.

Maintenance for pools that are closed but not winterized

Recommends that the opening maintenance for outdoor pools is completed to prevent a public nuisance.

- Stagnant (uncirculated) and untreated water encourages algae growth and insect breeding. The best practice is to ensure water recirculates and water chemistry (pH and disinfectant) is maintained at minimum levels:
 - pH level: 7.0 to 7.2 for algae control
 - Chlorine 2.0 ppm or Bromine: 2.0
 - Alkalinity: 60 ppm to 180 ppm
 - Turbidity: maintain water clarity, clearly see main drain
- Certified pool operator checks recirculating equipment and records water quality at least once per day.
- If a pool pump is a variable speed pump or variable frequency drive, the pool may operate at a lower turnover rate, maintaining at least a 12 hour turnover rate.
- Pool circulation pumps must operate 24 hours a day.
- Signs posted that pools are closed and entry gates are locked.
- Maintaining fencing and barriers during closure to minimize potential risk to small children.
- In ground pools are not recommended to be emptied due to hydrostatic pressure, which can cause empty pools to "pop" out of the ground.
- Empty pools collect stagnant rain water, which encourages insect breeding and algae growth.
- For indoor pools, meet current standards for ventilation and dehumidification.
- For spray pools or any pool with a water reservoir, clean and drain according to applicable industry standards and maintain to prevent stagnant water and insect breeding.

For spas that are closed

- Special consideration for closed spas due to possible legionnaires.
- Turn off the water heater.
- Clean and drain according to all applicable industry standards.