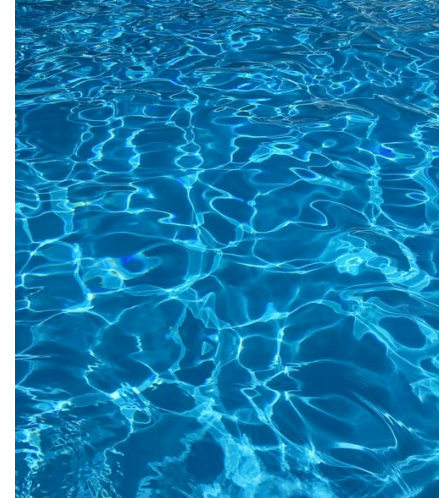


Pueblo County Recreational Water Facility Updates



Virginia Graeme Baker Act Update

Per the 2022 Pueblo County Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC), a "Broken, unsecured, or missing main drain grate or any submerged suction outlet grate in the aquatic venue" is considered an imminent health hazard and must be immediately corrected or the facility shall be closed until maintenance is complete. This imminent health hazard stems from the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGBA).

The VGBA requires that drain covers comply with entrapment protection requirements specified by the joint American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 performance standard, or any successor

standard. On May 24, 2019, the Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a direct final rule incorporating sections of APSP-16 2017 as the successor drain cover standard, effective 5/24/21.

The successor standard states, "Manufacturers of plastic drain covers typically recommend that they be replaced in 5-7 years (and this is stated on the covers)". If manufacturer documentation is not available to show which cover is currently installed in the aquatic venue or the installation date is unknown, it is time to replace the main drain cover and submerged suction outlet grates. Document all information found on the drain cover so it is available for the next PDPHE inspection. View the health department website or the Federal Register website for the successor standard."

**See the following
resources on our
website:**

pueblohealth.org

Current vs Future Inspection Guidance

A quick guide that compares old regulations to new regulations in checklist format.

Safety Equipment Checklist

Outlines what safety equipment the MAHC requires for lifeguard and non-lifeguard facilities.

Written Plans Outline

Outlines what written plans the MAHC requires for lifeguard and non-lifeguard facilities.

These MAHC Resources will be delivered at 2022 routine inspections

CPR Kit
Bloodborne Spill Kit
No Lifeguard on Duty Sign

Spotlight on pH

Why is pH important?

Chlorine or bromine are disinfectants that aquatic facilities use to kill germs and keep the water safe. If pH is too high or too low, these disinfectants are not able to properly kill germs, leading to unsafe pool water. When the pH is at the wrong level it can also cause eye irritation, skin irritation and even corrode pipes.

What is the number one violation the health department finds at pools in Pueblo County?

The most often cited critical violation is pH; this is marked “OUT” of compliance for 27% of inspections over 2020 and 2021. pH within the required range of 7.0-8.0 will keep pools safe and open.

How do I balance pH?

Controlling the pH of a pool or spa can be a tricky task, but is one of the most important jobs of a pool operator. If pH is low, add soda ash or caustic soda. If pH is high, add muriatic acid or sodium bisulfate. Read manufacturers labels to safely and correctly adjust chemicals according to pool volume.

Is alkalinity an important part of pH?

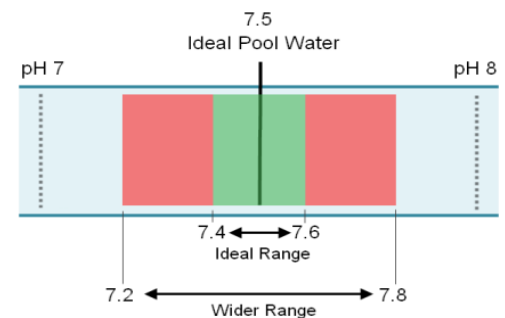
An important part of pH balance is Total Alkalinity. Total Alkalinity acts as an anchor, keeping pH at the correct level. If Total Alkalinity is too low the pH will “bounce” and small chemical addition will have major impact. If Total Alkalinity is too high the pH will “lock” and chemical addition will have little to no impact.

Pro Tip

Dispose of chemicals safely by reading manufacturer’s labels and by searching safe disposal locations in Colorado.

Did you know?

Cryptosporidium can only be inactivated (killed) in 20 ppm chlorine over 12.75 hours. Keep crypto out of your pools by alerting bathers to rinse off before entering the pool and not to swim while ill with diarrhea. See CDC guidelines for fecal contamination on our website pueblohealth.org.



Industry Update

Check your equipment for recalls.

We often receive information regarding recalls on car parts, so why not pools? Use the link below to get information about potential recalls on pool equipment. <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2021/Pool-Heaters-Recalled-by-Pentair-Water-Pool-and-Spa-Due-to-Fire-Hazard>