



Guidance for Maryland Public Pools and Spas that are not open to patrons

Maintenance for pools that are still winterized

- Pools must not create a public nuisance through stagnant water or insect breeding

Maintenance for pools that are closed but not winterized

The Department 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, CPO, checks recirculating equipment and records water quality 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.
- Notify the local health department of closed pools.
- Maintaining fencing and barriers during closure (minimize risk to small children).
- Not recommended to empty pools 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 legionnaires.
- Turn off the water heater.
- Clean and drain according to all applicable industry standards.