

Public Swimming Pools FAQs

AGE LIMITS FOR USE	BACTERIA TESTING	CHECKING YOUR POOL
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	FECAL RELEASE EVENT	HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION POOLS
INSPECTIONS BY SWUPHD	INSPECTIONS BY SWUPHD (SCHEDULE)	LIFEGUARD REQUIREMENTS
PERMIT COST	POOL EXEMPTIONS	POOL LOG SHEET
POOL PLANS	QPO CERTIFICATION	QPO INSPECTIONS
QUALIFIED POOL OPERATOR (QPO)	REPORT REGULATION VIOLATION	REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT
REQUIRED SIGNS	REQUIRED TO BUILD	SUCTION VACCUM RELEASE SYSTEM

What is required to build a new public pool or spa?

Begin by submitting plans, signed by an architect or engineer, and an application to your local Environmental Division of Southwest Utah Public Health Department (SWUPHD). It is always easier to fix problems on paper than it is once construction has begun. Plans MUST include design specifications for fencing, and pool buildings for restrooms, etc. Refer to Swimming Pool Checklist for a complete list of the minimum requirements for what needs to be shown on the plans. There is also a “plan review” fee. If the plans and application are in order an approval letter will be issued and plans will be wet stamped with an approval seal. One set of approved plans must remain with SWUPHD, if you need approved plans returned to you, submit multiple copies.

Are any pools exempt from regulation?

Yes, all private pools used by an individual, family or three or fewer living units are exempt from regulation. Also pools and spa that are used exclusively for therapeutic purposes and are attended by licensed medical or physiotherapy personnel are exempt from [R392-302](#) if they drain the pool after each use. If a therapy pool does not drain after each use, then it must comply with [R392-302](#) sections 27,28 & 29.

Are there age limits for use of a public pool or spa?

Yes, children under the age of 5 may not use a public spa pool under any circumstances. These young children do not have the body surface to volume ratio required to deal with the high heat of spa pools. Also, where life guard services are not provided, children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Even where life guard services are provided, adult supervision is strongly recommended. Finally, children under the age of 3 (and anyone not in control of their bowel) must

wear swim diapers and waterproof pants beneath their swim suits to provided three layers of protect against a fecal release event.

How do I deal with a fecal release event at my pool?

Close the pool immediately! After the public has safely exited the pool or spa enclosure, follow the guidelines from the [CDC's Fecal Incident Response Recommendations for Pool Staff](#).

What is Cryptosporidiosis?

Cryptosporidiosis is a diarrheal disease caused by microscopic parasites of the genus *Cryptosporidium*. Both the disease and the parasite are commonly known as “Crypto.” For more information visit the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) website on crypto](#).

What is a QPO?

A QPO, or Qualified Pool Operator, is a person qualified under [R392-30-29\(1\)](#), Examples include, but are not limited to, those with certificates from the [National Swimming Pool Foundation's Certified Pool Operator \(CPO\)](#) course, the [National Recreation and Parks Association's Aquatics Facility Operator \(AFO\)](#) course, and [Salt Lake Community College's Pool & Spa Operator Certification Course](#). Qualified training courses are determined by the Utah State Health Department and not SWUPHD.

How do I become a QPO?

Received Certification from a course approve by the Utah State Health Department. Currently approved courses include the [National Swimming Pool Foundation's Certified Pool Operator \(CPO\)](#) course, the [National Recreation and Parks Association's Aquatics Facility Operator \(AFO\)](#) course, and [Salt Lake Community College's Pool & Spa Operator Certification Course](#).

What is a Pool Plan?

A pool plan is a plan developed by the QPO and the pool or spa owners to maintain the sanitation and operational condition of the public pool or spa. Pool Plans for public pools or spas must be reviewed annually and posted in the pump room for easy inspection. Additionally, the plan should be reviewed adjusted each time the QPO changes, the pool or spa ownership changes, or changes are made to the circulation system. Sample pool plan is available with the linked files above and guidelines for creating a pool plan can be found there as well.

Where can I find a pool log sheet that is acceptable to SWUPHD?

A sample log sheet can be found with the linked files on our website. Any log sheet that records the information indicated on the Sample Log Sheet in an easily readable manner is acceptable. A separate log must be kept for each pool or spa.

How often should I be checking my pool?

The frequency of check on a pool is determined by the pool plan developed by the pool owner and the QPO. Each public pool or spa should have the pool chemistry, flow rate, and general pool conditions a minimum of once each day. Pools or spas that are not performing monthly bacteriological testing should be making these checks at least four times a day. See section four of Pool Plan Guidelines link on our website.

How often should a QPO inspect public pools or spas?

Each public pool or spa must be inspected at least once each week by the person whose is listed in the Pool Plan as the assigned QPO. The QPO and the Owner are ultimately responsible for the condition of the pool and bather safety. If the QPO is not present at the pool each day, they should train another person to check pool chemistry, flow rate, and general pool conditions when the QPO is not present. The QPO may also responsible for performing the required monthly bacteriological testing if SWUPHD is not collecting the samples.

What does an inspection by SWUPHD mean?

Environmental Health Scientists (EHS) from SWUPHD check pools for compliance with R392-302. The inspection reports reflect the condition of the pool at the time of the EHS visit and items marked as out of compliance should be corrected quickly. Many items, such as water chemical balance, can change rapidly and may not be what the QPO observed during their last check, nor what they will observe on their next check of the pool. These items are still brought to the attention of Owners and QPO's as areas that may require additional equipment or monitoring and can aide in improving the pool plan to ensure the best operation and maintenance of the pool going forward.

How often does SWUPHD inspect public pools or spas?

Each public pool or spa should be inspected by a representative of the SWUPHD Environmental Health division at least once each year. Additional inspections are conducted when complaints are received and as determined necessary by the EHS. Occasionally staffing issues or other problems limit the EHS's ability to inspect each pool.

Bacteria Testing?

- **What bacteria tests are required each month?**
 - [R392-302-27\(9\)](#) requires that each pool monthly test for the presence of coliform bacteria as well as a plate count for total colonies of all bacteria. At this time SWUPHD will only be requiring presence or absence of coliform testing, the plate count testing is highly recommended, but won't be required until test can be readily provided in area.



- **Why are bacteria tests being required by SWUPHD?**
 - This requirement has been in the Utah state code in some form for more than 20 years, but has not been enforced in this area because of the difficulty in having the required testing performed. Instead, all public pools in the area have been treated as if they have failed the bacteriological testing and required to test the pool chemistry four times each day. By requiring monthly bacteriological testing SWUPHD can allow public pools to develop plans for maintaining pools with pool chemistry tests as little as once each day.
- **Southwest Utah Public Health Water Lab provides bacteriological testing for a fee and our personnel will come to your permitted pool and collect the sample. If, however, you would prefer to collect the samples yourself and drop them off at our office, the fee is less and sample receiving times for Washington County can be found on our Lab Calendar. Additionally, samples can be dropped off at our Garfield County office prior to 11 AM (if possible, call first) and in Kane County prior to 12 PM on Wednesdays.**
- Samples may be submitted to any lab approved by the Utah Division of Environmental Quality for drinking water testing. However, if a lab other than Southwest Utah Public Health Water Lab performs the bacteria testing, it is the responsibility of the pool owner to ensure that SWUPHD receives the results of the bacteria test within five business days.

I have a suction vacuum release system (SVRS) on my pool or spa, do I need anything else?

Yes, SVRS systems need to be tested according to manufacturer's recommendations at least once each week. Failure to perform this test invalidates the system as a solution for the VGBA. SVRS systems are also required to have either an audible or visual alarm that covers the pool enclosure along with a sign that prohibits the use of the pool or spa when the alarm is activated.

What safety equipment is required for a public pool?

Each public pool must have a life hook, a ring buoy with attached rope and a first aid kit. The ring buoy rope must be ten feet longer than the widest point of the pool. Where lifeguards are provided the lifeguard rescue tubes may be used as a substitute for the ring buoy. First Aid kits do not have to be in the pool enclosure itself, but must be readily accessible to bathers.

What signs are required for a pool or spa enclosure?

Where lifeguards are not provided, a warning sign must be placed in plain view and shall state: WARNING – NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY and BATHERS SHOULD NOT SWIM ALONE, with clearly legible letters, at least 4 inches high. In addition, the sign must also state CHILDREN 14 AND UNDER SHOULD NOT USE POOL WITHOUT RESPONSIBLE ADULT SUPERVISION. See the Recreational Bathing Facility Sign Requirements in the linked files above for additional rules that must be posted or enforced by lifeguards.

When is a pool required to have lifeguards?

Lifeguard service must be provided where direct fees are charged for the use of the pool (weather for open swimming, lessons or other), or if public funds support the operation of the pool. All other pools must either provide lifeguard service or clearly post signs stating that life guard service isn't provided.

What are the requirements for being a lifeguard at a public pool?

Lifeguards for public pools in Utah must be trained in Standard Level First Aid, C.P.R for professional rescuers, and Lifeguarding. This training must be certified by the [American Red Cross](#), [Ellis and Associates](#), or an equivalent program approved by the Utah State Department of Health.

Why are homeowners' association pools considered a public pool?

Homeowners' associations generally consist of four or more living units, and therefore meet the definition of a public pool. At this time Utah does not differentiate different types of public pools.

I own/care for a public pool or spa that is not being regulated, what should I do?

First, call your local Environmental Health Division office to determine if SWUPHD has a record of the pool. If no record is available the please ask to speak with the EHS assigned to that facility to create a record and determine if the pool is in need of an inspection.

What is the permit cost for a public pool?

As of July 1, 2018, a public pool permit is \$100 for each pool or spa. Bacteria sampling fees are included on the invoice as well so it is important that SWUPHD know which month the body of water is open for access. Fees are reviewed each year by the board of health and are **subject to change**.