

# The Wavelength

## OAKLAND COUNTY HEALTH DIVISION

### Pool Operations: Starting Summer Successfully

With snow on the ground and cold temperatures, it may seem like the summer is a long way off. Soon, the weather will warm up and the outdoor pool season will be here. Successful pool operations require diligence and attention to detail. The Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) is committed to assisting pool operators and managers to efficiently and effectively manage their facilities.

In preparation of pool opening day, make certain that a 2009 State of Michigan Swimming Pool license has been applied for and received. A swimming pool license is typically issued annually. Ensure that a current license is posted at your facility. An application and submittal instructions

can be obtained by calling Teresa Fry, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), at (517) 241-1353 or by e-mail at [fryt@michigan.gov](mailto:fryt@michigan.gov)

The MDEQ is also the agency to contact with questions related to pool construction, remodeling, and alteration that may have occurred since the last inspection. Paul Sisson can be contacted at [sissonp@michigan.gov](mailto:sissonp@michigan.gov) or at (517) 241-1353.

For inspections occurring in Oakland County in 2009, there is a new annual inspection fee of \$66. This fee must be paid prior to an opening inspection being conducted by OCHD. A request for an inspection form was mailed out to each licensed facility. This form should have been completed and returned to OCHD, with the applicable fee, by December 2008. A copy of this

form is available by contacting OCHD at (248) 858-1312 or by e-mail at [feneleyt@oakgov.com](mailto:feneleyt@oakgov.com).

If multiple follow up inspections are required due to noncompliance with pool rules, a re-inspection fee of \$16 will be assessed.

A satisfactory bacteriological water sample result must be obtained for all outdoor pools prior to opening. Samples can be submitted to the OCHD Laboratory or a private certified lab.

The pool opening checklist can be used as a self inspection guide prior to a seasonal opening inspection. This checklist may be used by any facility that was not closed during the 2008 operating season. It can be obtained by contacting any OCHD Environmental Health Services Office, or at the OCHD web site:

*Continued on page 2*

## In This Issue

Pool Operations_____	1
Main Drain Rules_____	2
Water Chemistry_____	2
Sample Results_____	2
Wavelength Delivery_____	2
Closure Reason_____	3
Water Sample Tips_____	3



Department of Health & Human Services

Oakland County Health Division  
1200 N. Telegraph Rd. • Pontiac, MI 48341

[www.oakgov.com/health](http://www.oakgov.com/health)

L. Brooks Patterson  
Oakland County Executive

## Main Drain Rules

On December 19, 2007 the Virginia Graeme Baker (VGBA) Pool & Spa Safety Act went into effect. The Act's purpose is to reduce the risk of entrapment from suction at pool main drains. While there are no known entrapment deaths in Michigan, it is enforced by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, an independent regulatory agency.

In Michigan, the MDEQ is working with each licensed facility to make sure that pools comply with the new standards. By December 19, 2008, each pool and spa was required to comply with the standard. A Pool Main Drain Replacement Form, found at [www.michigan.gov/deg](http://www.michigan.gov/deg) must be completed for each pool and submitted to the MDEQ for review and approval.

The web site also has links to Frequently Asked Questions, Consumer Product Safety Commission Guide to Compliance, and a listing of approved drain covers. Type 'Public Swimming Pools' in the search box at the main MDEQ link mentioned above.●

## Changes to Water Sample Results Notification

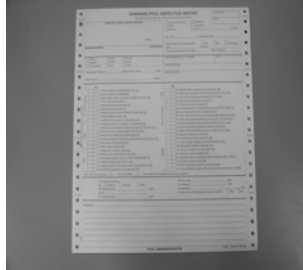
Effective April 6, 2009, the Oakland County Health Division will no longer mail postcards to clients that have submitted an acceptable water sample for swimming pool water testing. Postcards will only be mailed out for unsatisfactory water sample results.●

## Wavelength Delivery

In an effort to go green, 'The Wavelength' will become paperless and future issues will be available electronically on the Oakland County Health Division web site.●

## Pool, *Continued from page 1*

[www.oakgov.com/health/assets/Documents/EH/eh\\_pools\\_opening\\_checklist.pdf](http://www.oakgov.com/health/assets/Documents/EH/eh_pools_opening_checklist.pdf).



A seasonal opening inspection is necessary to verify that any violations from the previous season have been corrected. Make sure to review the previous year's inspection to determine if any concerns remain unresolved. Correcting any violations in advance will reduce the need for repeat visits and enable operations to begin after the initial visit.

OCHD is committed to assisting pool operators to ensure a safe operating season. Pool operators should contact OCHD prior to opening the pool to make sure any questions, concerns, or changes are addressed. Our staff can coordinate site consultations to assure all observed deficiencies are corrected before opening.●



## Water Chemistry

Shocking the pool can be a method of increasing longevity, and the overall safety of a swimming pool. Remember to check the following when shocking your pool:

- ✓ Immediately close the pool. Vent the enclosure – fresh air is vital for effective shock treatments. If bromine is used as a disinfectant, be sure to turn off the brominator.
- ✓ A hypochlorite shock is needed to rapidly burn off contaminants. *Oxidizing products are not recommended.*
- ✓ Disinfectant levels above ten parts per million may be needed for more resistant types of contamination.
- ✓ Do not apply chemicals to one spot. Apply either a **liquid** or a **pre-mixed powder solution** by walking around the pool.
- ✓ Never shock a spa pool; it is much easier and safer to drain this small amount of water, scrub, and refill.
- ✓ Let the shock treatment circulate through the system at least four hours before backwashing.
- ✓ If combined chlorine is present after shocking, the treatment has not worked and must be repeated.
- ✓ Submit a water sample to OCHD for analysis.

*Note: Spas are not to be shocked. Drain the spa and clean it manually using an approved disinfectant.●*

## Ten Reasons Your Pool May Be Closed

Many variables must be considered for the safe and acceptable operation of a public swimming pool. Ten of the most significant concerns that result in pool closures include:

### ➤ Insufficient Safety Supplies

All public swimming pools must have a complete blood borne pathogen kit, and first aid kit.

### ➤ Pool Operator

Each pool must have an operator available within 15 minutes.

### ➤ Contingency/Emergency Plans

A copy needs to be able for review during an inspection.

### ➤ Unacceptable Water Samples

Acceptable water sample results need to be provided. Water samples must have Total coliform level of 0 and standard plate count less than 200.

### ➤ Gate

Must be self closing, latching, and locking.

### ➤ Telephone

Must be operational and connected to a permanently attended station or emergency services.

### ➤ Pool Chemistry

Maintain minimum disinfectant level with pH between 7.2 - 8.

### ➤ Main Drain

Must be properly secured and without cracks.

### ➤ Cloudy Water

Main drains must be visible from a horizontal distance of 30 feet.

### ➤ Lifeguards

Some swimming pools must have properly trained lifeguards at the swimming pool when in operation. ●

## Water Sample Tips

Collecting and submitting an acceptable water samples requires attention to detail. OCHD requests that samples be collected weekly for analysis. When collecting water sample the follow these steps:

1. Wash hands with soap and water prior to opening the sterilized bottle.
2. Invert the bottle under the water surface at elbow length.
3. Turn the bottle upright under the water, then raise it out of the pool.
4. Tap the bottle to remove excess water until it reaches the 100 ml level.
5. Record the pH and sanitizer level at time of sample collection.

6. Completely fill out the sample form including the time, date, pool ID number (begins with 63-) and location of pool.

7. Attach the completed sample form to the bottle using a rubber band.

Once the sample is collected, make sure to take it to the lab the same day collection occurs. Laboratory **drop off times** are:

Monday / Tuesday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM  
Wed: 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**The OCHD lab will be closed on the following 2009 holidays:**

**5/25 Memorial Day  
9/7 Labor Day**

In addition, a number of cities, townships and villages have water collection pick up points.

We look forward to working with you this summer. ●



## Helpful Resources

National Swimming Pool Foundation  
Certified Pool Operator Program  
Phone: (719) 540-9119  
URL: [www.nspf.com](http://www.nspf.com)

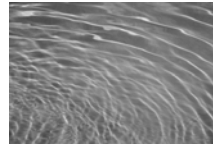
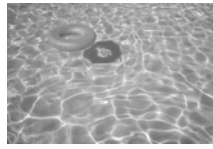
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Phone: (800) 662-9278 or (517) 241-1353  
URL: [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention –  
Disease and Accident Prevention in Swimming Pools  
Phone: (800) 232-4636 or (404) 498-1515  
URL: [www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming)

NSF  
Phone: (800) NSF-MARK or (734) 769-8010  
URL: [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)

Pool and Spa Equipment Standard 50  
URL:  
[www.nsf.org/business/pool\\_and\\_spas/standards.asp](http://www.nsf.org/business/pool_and_spas/standards.asp)

Consumer Information on Pool and Spa Safety  
URL:  
[www.nsf.org/consumer/pools\\_and\\_spas/index.asp](http://www.nsf.org/consumer/pools_and_spas/index.asp)



## For More Information:

### Pontiac

1200 North Telegraph Road  
Pontiac, MI 48341-0432  
248.858.1280  
Toll Free 1.888.350.0900  
FAX 248.858.0178

### Southfield

27725 Greenfield Road  
Southfield, MI 48076-3625  
248.424.7000  
Toll Free 1.888.758.9925  
FAX 248.424.7144

### Walled Lake

1010 E. West Maple Road  
Walled Lake, MI 48390  
248.926.3300  
FAX 248.960.7444

Visit us at our website: [www.oakgov.com/health](http://www.oakgov.com/health)

*The Oakland County Health Division will not deny participation in its programs based on race, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability. State and federal eligibility requirements apply for certain programs.*