

# POOL AND SPA MAINTENANCE

## Pool and Spa Fouling Procedures



**Northwestern  
Health Unit**  
[www.nwhu.on.ca](http://www.nwhu.on.ca)

There are many events that can occur at your pool facility. Bathers may have a fecal or vomiting accident in your pool which can lead to the spread of communicable diseases if not treated quickly and efficiently. The following procedures are provided to allow you to protect your bathers from illness and keep your pool and spa safe and sanitary.

### **PROCEDURE A:**

#### **Swimming Pools Contaminated with Normal Formed Fecal Material**

Step 1: When fecal material is noticed in the pool, immediately evacuate everyone from the pool.

Step 2: Remove the fecal material from the pool by using a scooping device and dispose of the stools into a toilet. Clean and disinfect the scooping device.

Step 3: Super chlorinate the contaminated area of the pool to at least 10 ppm free available chlorine (FAC) for a minimum of 15 minutes.

Step 4: Reduce the FAC of the pool water to 0.5 – 3.0 ppm prior to permitting patrons back into the pool. Use sodium thiosulfate or dilute with fresh water to reduce the FAC.

### **PROCEDURE B: W**

#### **Swimming Pools Contaminated with Diarrhea or Vomit**

Step 1: When diarrhea or vomit is observed in the pool, **immediately** evacuate everyone from the pool.

Step 2: If possible, identify the person responsible for the accident and request that they immediately go to their doctor. Ask for their name and telephone number.

Step 3: Shut off the recirculation pump and other chemical feeders.

Step 4: Remove vomit and any visible diarrhea with a scooping device and dispose of the material into a toilet. Clean and disinfect the scooping device.

Step 5: Vacuum **to waste** any remaining diarrhea or vomit.

Step 6: Superchlorinate the pool to a minimum concentration of 50 ppm for two and half hours or to a minimum concentration of 80 ppm for one and a half hours.

Step 7: Turn on the recirculation equipment and chemical feeders.

Step 8: Reduce the FAC of the pool water to 0.5 to 3.0 ppm prior to permitting patrons back into the pool. Use sodium thiosulfate or dilute with fresh water to reduce the FAC.

## PROCEDURE C:

### Spas Contaminated with Infectious Agents, Fecal Material, or Vomit

Step 1: Immediately evacuate everyone from the spa and close it.

Step 2: If necessary, remove any fecal material or vomit with a scooping device and dispose of the material into a toilet. Clean and disinfect the scooping device.

Step 3: Turn the heater off. Wait until the heater unit has cooled.

Step 4: Drain the spa. Use protective rubber gloves and a face mask when working around the tank and mechanical equipment.

Step 5: Ensure that the spa area is well ventilated.

Step 6: Clean the whirlpool basin with a mild tub and liner cleaner. Ensure that all grease and scum has been removed. Rinse the cleaner to drain.

Step 7: Fill the spa to the halfway point of the skimmer mouth ensuring that the air lines of the hydro jets are flooded.

Step 8: Shock the water with a chlorine residual of 50 ppm. Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions for the amount of chlorine required to obtain 50 ppm.

Step 9: Turn off all equipment that functions when the filter pump is on (example: chemical feeders, pH and chemical controllers).

Step 10: Turn the filter pump on and circulate for a minimum of two and a half hours.

Step 11: Turn the hydro jet pump on for a minimum of 20 minutes.

Step 12: Disinfect the deck area surrounding the spa with a 100 ppm chlorine solution or a 200 ppm quaternary ammonium compound solution.

Step 13: After two and a half hours, backwash the filter according to the manufacturer's requirements.

Step 14: Drain the spa and hydro jet lines.

Step 15: Refill the spa and immediately repeat backwashing the filter.

Step 16: Top up the spa water level and turn on any equipment which functions with the filter pump.

Step 17: Balance the water chemistry by using an approved test kit.

Step 18: Maintain the required disinfectant level. A FAC residual of 5.0 – 10.0 mg/L is required.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact a Public Health Inspector at one of these Northwestern Health Unit offices.

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Ph: (807) 468-3147  
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