



**Delaware General
Health District**

Dedicated to your health.

Swimming Pool and Spa Newsletter

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www.delawarehealth.org

Change is on the Horizon

The Ohio Department of Health initiated its five year Pool Rule revision in November 2008. Since that time industry members, health officials and representatives from the academic community have been reviewing the pool rules and making suggestions for improvement. The Rule Revision committee hopes that the draft will be ready for review in late spring of this year. At that time you will be able to find a copy of the draft on the Ohio Department of Health website: <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/eh/swim/RRInfo.aspx> and submit comments.

A few of the proposed items to be changed or added are:

- Virginia Graeme Baker compliance will be written into the state rules.
- Cyanuric Acid maximum will be lowered from 100ppm to 70ppm.
- The maximum for Combined Chlorine will be 1.0ppm.
- An official list of Critical Items which will allow the inspector to request voluntary

closure of the pool or spa will be prescribed. The list may include: a valid license, a main drain that is not secured, or improper storage of chemicals.

- Auto controllers will be required to be equipped with an auto shut-off at the flow switch.

The items mentioned have not been officially adopted as rules and are subject to change. The Delaware General Health District will continue to keep you aware of the direction the changes appear to be going. Once the rules are finalized, the link will be posted on our website. If you have any questions about the process or the changes, please contact this office.

Local Changes

In response to Ohio Department of Health recommendations, the Delaware General Health District 'Pool Closure Policy' was updated in January. The update includes the ability of inspectors to request voluntary closure if the *"perimeter fence or barrier... does not prevent unauthorized entry into the pool. This includes a gate which is no longer self closing or operates as originally approved"*.



Karie Sanders, R.S. talks about Pool Safety with Channel 10.

This means any pool with gates which have been made self closing with an elastic band or a spring for a storm door will be asked to immediately close. The pool will be asked to remain closed until the gate works as it was designed. Keep this in mind as you are preparing to open your pool for the season.

Friendly Reminders

While we are out inspecting your outdoor pools about every two weeks throughout the summer, there are a few items we would like you to remember:

- Keep pump rooms inaccessible to pool patrons
- Keep miscellaneous items out of the pump room
- File the proper paperwork with the Ohio Department of Health if equipment has been replaced
- Properly stock First Aid Kits
- Maintain working emergency phones
- Check water chemistry and record prior to opening for the day
- Monitor flow meters daily



VGBA and You

Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act was signed into federal law on December 17, 2007. This law became effective in December 2008. The goals of this law are as follows:

- Enhance the safety of public and private pools and spas
- Encourage the use of layers of protection
- Reduce child drownings in pools and spas (nearly 300 each year involving children younger than five)
- Reduce the number of suction entrapment incidents, injuries and deaths
- Educate the public on the importance of constant supervision of children in and around water

So, what does this mean to you as operators of public pools? The layers of protection are where you come in. The first layer will be ensuring drain covers meet the ASME/NSI A112.19.8-2007 standard. The drain covers should come with a certification document. Keep these documents so that you can prove the proper drains are installed. If you have custom covers a Registered Design Professional or a licensed professional engineer can specify that your pre-existing covers meet the standard.

The second layer of protection may include your pool or spa if you have a single, main drain which is blockable OR multiple drains less than three feet apart. Please refer to poolsafety.gov for clarification of the definition of unblockable.

Once it has been determined that a second layer of protection is needed there are several devices that can be used. The options include: Safety Vacuum Release System, Suction-Limiting Vent System, Gravity Drainage System, Automatic Pump Shut Off System, Drain Disablement or any other device determined by the Commission to be as effective as the other ones listed.

Protect your investment by ensuring that all drain covers and devices are installed by a knowledgeable technician.

Currently, the Ohio Pool Rules do not allow non-compliance in this area to be written as a violation. This is expected to change with the rule revision.