



# Portage County Combined General Health District Pool Program

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

## Changes in 2015



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**There were many changes to the pool/spa/therapy facility inspection program in 2015. Thank you for your patience while we implemented these changes.**

A review of the 2015 Pool Program changes implemented include:

- 1. Pool/spa inspections frequency** - Once a year inspections were increased to 2 per year for outdoor and 3 per year for indoor.
- 2. Annual Equipment Inventory** - This is a review to certify there were

no significant equipment changes without appropriate Ohio Department of Health approval.

- 3. Email follow-up** - An inspection email follow-up protocol was implemented to document correction for the file record that any identified pool/spa deficiencies have been corrected in a timely manner.

- 4. Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act** - Inspections included documentation of compliance with this drain safety regulation enacted in late 2008. All pools must comply by June 1, 2016.

### **Tighter Enforcement of Requirements - 2015**

**Cyanuric Acid (CYA)** - Pools using Di or Trichlor are required to test for CYA once a week.

**Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)** - Pools that generate chlorine from salt must test for TDS once a week.

**Latches** - All pools with swinging gates are required to have self-closing/self-latching gates.

\*This requirement is also enforced for pools with lifeguards.

**Skimmers** - Replacement of missing skimmer flappers is required.

## What's NEW in 2016

The Ohio Department of Health has recommended the following:

>**Flow Meter** - ensure 90 degree positioning & minimum spacing from up-flow (20")/down-flow (10") elbows

>**Backflow Prevention Device (BPD)**- ensure installation of BPD meeting A.S.S.E.1013 and yearly testing.

>**Chemical auto-controllers** - require 1/month testing of all ORP units (record on daily report forms)

>**Annual Equipment Inventory** - complete inventory 1/yr. to ensure no significant equipment replacements are Initiated without ODH approval (except like replacements)



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Program  
Auditor and  
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# Fact Sheets and Inspection Handouts

The health department has developed and made available the following fact sheets and inspection handouts. These are available on line at:  
<http://www.co.portage.oh.us/pchd/>

- Adjusting Pool Chemicals: Adjusting Chemical Levels to Ideal Levels
- Adjustment of Pool Chemicals: Ideal Chemical Levels
- Automatic Chemical Controllers Fact Sheet
- Critical Operational Items for Pools: Items Subject to Required Pool Closure
- Cyanuric Acid (CYA)- What Happens When Cyanuric Acid in a Pool is too High?

- Cyanuric Acid (CYA)- Bio- Active: A New Product Info to Control Cyanuric Acid
- Drain Covers - Virginia Graeme Baker Pool/Spa Safety Act
- Equipment Replacement- Prior ODH Approval for Pool Equipment Replacement
- Flow Meter - Maintenance
- Flow Meter – Spacing Requirements
- ODH Equipment Replacement Form
- ODH Pool Regulations
- ODH Suggested Reporting Forms
- Paints – ODH Acceptable Pool/Spa Paints & Coating Colors
- Pool Spills - Fecal Incident Response Recommendations for Pool Staff

- Recirculation Rates- Fact sheet for “How To Determine the Cause of Low Water Flow”
- Salt Pools - Fact sheet for Pools Equipped with a Chlorine Generator from Salt
- Signage - Spa Signage Fact Sheet
- Synopsis of Rules for Pools, Spas, and Special Use Pools
- Test Kits - Fact Sheet for Swimming Pool Chemistry Test Kits

## 2016 FACT SHEETS

- Ohio Department of Health approved paints and coatings for pools/spas
- Proper spacing for flow meters
- Backflow prevention device meeting A.S.S.E. 1013



## **Portage County Combined General Health District**

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The Portage County Combined General Health District licenses and regularly inspects 69 pools and spas each year. A license is required for any pool or spa serving four families or more, which includes apartments, hotels, condominiums, homeowner associations, hospital/therapy facilities, health clubs, and municipal facilities.

We encourage all of our pool/spa operators to contact us with any questions about current or future regulatory requirements. Please keep us informed if there are any changes in your pool/spa operations such as closures, repairs, spills, changes in personnel, etc.