

## DHEC Swimming Pool Contact Information

**Anderson and Oconee Counties**  
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Anderson, SC 29621  
Phone: (864) 260-5585  
Fax: (864) 222-3923

**Greenville and Pickens Counties**  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29601  
Phone: (864) 372-3273  
Fax: (864) 282-4371

**Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union Counties**  
151 East Wood Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29303  
Phone: (864) 596-3327  
Fax: (864) 596-3920

**Lancaster, Chester and York Counties**  
2475 DHEC Road  
Lancaster, SC 29720  
Phone: (803) 285-7461  
Fax: (803) 285-5594

**Fairfield, Lexington, Richland and Newberry Counties**  
8500 Farrow Road Bldg. 12  
Columbia, SC 29203  
Phone: (803) 896-0620  
Fax: (803) 896-0617

**Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties**  
104 Parker Drive  
Beaufort, SC 29906  
Phone: (843) 846-1030  
Fax: (843) 846-0604

**Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Edgefield, Orangeburg and Saluda Counties**  
206 Beaufort Street, NE  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 642-1637  
Fax: (803) 643-4027

**Florence, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Marion, and Marlboro Counties**  
145 East Cheves Street  
Florence, SC 29506  
Phone: (843) 661-4825  
Fax: (843) 661-4858

**Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester Counties**  
1362 McMillan Avenue,  
Suite 300, Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: (843) 953-0150  
Fax: (843) 953-0151

**Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens and McCormick Counties**  
1736 South Main Street  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
Phone: (864) 227-5915  
Fax: (864) 942-3680

**Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg Counties**  
927 Shine Avenue  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
Phone: (843) 238-4378  
Fax: (843) 238-4518

**Sumter, Clarendon, Kershaw and Lee Counties**  
105 N. Magnolia Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Phone: (803) 778-6548  
Fax: (803) 934-2938

**Central (Columbia) Office:**  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

- Compliance Assurance  
Phone: (803) 898-4255
- Permitting  
Phone: (803) 898-4300
- Fee Payment  
Phone: (803) 898-3460

# NEWSPLASH

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## Public Swimming Pool Inspections

### Perimeter Fencing and Gates: A New Closure Item

Beginning this 2017 pool season, a gate that does not **self-close and latch** will warrant immediate closure of the public swimming pool. Additionally, fencing with openings greater than 4 inches will also warrant an immediate closure. When SCDHEC comes on site for an inspection, the Department will be ensuring that the gate self-closes and latches at 90 degrees, 45 degrees, and 15 degrees, and that there are no openings in the perimeter fencing greater than 4 inches. If the gate does not self-close and latch at these points or there are openings greater than 4 inches, the pool will be closed by the Department.

If the only deficiency found to be non-compliant during the inspection is the gate self-closing and latching or openings in the perimeter fencing greater than 4 inches, the pool will be instructed to re-open once the corrections have been made. If the Pool has gates that are used by facility personnel only and do not self close and latch, the Department does require them to be closed and locked when the pool is in operation. The perimeter fencing and gate have been included in the immediate closure items portion of the Public Swimming Pool Regulation 61-51 (Section K) since the 2009 revision of the Regulation. If the pool gates do not self-close and latch, it can create an environment where young children can gain access to the pool without an adult's supervision. Please remember to check your pool gate daily to be sure it self-closes and latches at all angles, prior to opening your public swimming pool. It just may save a child's life.



S.C. DHEC Bureau of Water  
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Columbia, SC 29201



www.scdhec.gov/environment/WaterQuality/SwimmingPoolsRecreationalWaters

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## Information

### Night Swimming

Night Swimming at Public Swimming Pool Facilities is growing in popularity throughout the state. If your facility is considering opening the pool past sunset, there are a couple of things that you will need to keep in mind. The Department has a minimum area lighting requirement for pools open past sunset. The Department requires that there be no less than 0.5 watts of incandescent lighting or 8.35 lumens of underwater lighting provided per square foot of pool area. The Department also requires uniform illumination of the pool deck surface with no less than 0.6 watts of incandescent light, or 10 lumens per square foot, or 10 foot candles of intensity. If the pool does not have any underwater lights and would like to be open for night swimming, the Department requires that there be uniform area lighting in the amount of no less than two watts of incandescent light, or 33.5 lumens per square foot of pool area, or 32 foot candles of intensity in addition to the 0.6 watts of incandescent light or 10 foot candles of intensity per square foot of deck area. If your facility is considering putting in lights to allow for night swimming, the Department requires that you submit a Change Order Request Form with the area lighting plan to the Department for review prior to the commencement of any work. The Department will verify that the proposed equipment meets the requirements. For more information on the required pool lighting for night swimming and electrical requirements for lighting, please review pages 34-35 of the SC Public Swimming Pool Regulation 61-51.

### Updating The Department - Facility Information Sheets

As we enter into our third year of using electronic inspections, the Department has collected e-mail addresses for public swimming pool facility owners, managers, and pool operators so they can receive a copy of the inspection reports for their recreational water facility. The Department asks that if you would like to have these e-mail contacts updated, please fill out a Facility Information Sheet and submit it to your local regional office. Locations of the DHEC regional office can be found under DHEC Swimming Pool Contacts Information on the back of this newsletter. Facility Information Sheets are also very valuable for updating your mailing address with the Department and for providing information on where to leave an inspection report summary. You can find copies of the Facility Information Sheet at: <http://www.scdhec.gov/Library/D-3441.pdf>

### What To Do If An Incident Occurs At Your Facility

If an incident occurs at your public swimming pool where a patron or employee dies, suffers an injury, or has an accident requiring emergency medical services, an emergency room visit, or hospitalization, the Department requires that the owner or owner's designated agent submit an Incident Report within 72 hours of the occurrence. Submitting incident reports after an incident is critical, as it helps keep the Department informed of any issues. The Department will also perform an inspection after an incident is reported so we can verify that all safety equipment was in place and that the pool was being operated as per the Regulation. This is critical in case a legal matter arises surrounding the incident. Following an incident, fill out an Incident Report and contact the local regional office and inform them of the incident. They will then come out and perform an inspection. At that time the Incident Reports should be given to them. You can get a copy of the incident report by visiting: <http://www.scdhec.gov/Library/d-3785.pdf>

## Pool Equipment

### Flow Meters

Knowing the flow through the recirculation system is vital to proper pool operation. A minimum required flow rate is determined for each pool during the design and permitting phase of pool construction. This minimum flow rate ensures there is sufficient flow through the filters to maintain water quality and clarity. In addition, there could be a maximum allowed flow established as a Special Condition of the Construction Permit. The maximum allowed flow may be based on an equipment limitation. Variable speed pumps, which can deliver a range of flows, may have both minimum and maximum flow rates for a particular pool.

A flow meter, which measures the instantaneous flow through the return pipe in gallons per minute, is a required piece of pool recirculation equipment. A quick glance at the flow meter can tell the pool operator or inspector if the minimum flow is being met, or if a maximum flow is being exceeded. By checking the flow meter often, the flow meter can alert the operator to problems with the system if there is a sudden change in flow. Early detection and correction of a problem could avoid future issues.

The South Carolina Public Pool Regulations (R.61-51) requires that each public pool be equipped with a working, accurate flow meter. A popular misconception is that SCDHEC allows only digital type flow meters for new pools. R.61-51 does not mandate using a digital meter, but it does specify an accuracy standard of +/- 5% of the actual flow. A few years ago, the only flow meters available that could achieve that range of accuracy were digital. Any piece of equipment, including flow meters, must be installed per the manufacturer's recommendations. A common make of digital flow meters recommended that the meter be installed on a long straight pipe to ensure accuracy. The exact length was determined by such factors as the pipe diameter and type of fittings upstream of the meter. The pipe length sometimes presented a challenge to the designer working with limited equipment room space. There are now non-digital meters on the market that can meet the 5% accuracy with fewer design restrictions. One example is the FlowVis, a mechanical type meter. Another is the Blue White F-300 (new version, sizes 1"-3"), a venerable pitot type which has been re-designed for more accuracy. Please be aware that these are only recommendations and examples of meters that the Department has found to be acceptable in some applications. There may be other flow meters available that are allowable. There is no "one size fits all" type of flow meter, each make/model has limitations on pipe sizes, flow ranges, cost, and installation requirements. As always, before installing a piece of equipment (such as a flow meter), a Change Order Request Form must be submitted to the SCDHEC pool permitting staff for review and approval prior to the installation.

## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Public Swimming Pools

- Q.** Where can I get a copy of the Public Swimming Pools Regulation 61-51 that was updated as of June 27, 2014?
- A.** You can find a copy of the revised Public Swimming Pools Regulation 61-51 on the DHEC website: <http://www.scdhec.gov/agency/docs/water-regs/r61-51.pdf>
- Q.** How do I make sure that customers and DHEC inspectors know my pool area is closed when performing maintenance?
- A.** DHEC asks that when you close your pool area for maintenance, you lock and place a "Pool Closed" sign on all gates that lead into the pool. The Department also asks that you write pool closed in the log book. This ensures that patrons and DHEC staff are aware that the pool area is closed and that swimming is not allowed.
- Q.** What are the requirements for the drinking water fountain and foot rinse shower? When were the regulations put in place?
- A.** Public Swimming Pools Regulation 61-51 requires that "at least one drinking water fountain shall be provided within 50 feet of the pool at all public pools," and "all outdoor pools shall be provided with a foot rinse shower at major entrance points, up to a maximum of three. The foot rinse shower must be located within 20 feet of the corresponding entrance point." The requirement for a drinking water fountain has been in the Public Swimming Pools Regulation since 1942. The requirement for a foot rinse shower has been in the Regulation since 1983.
- Q.** What can I do to make sure the Department knows who the Pool Operator of Record (POR) is at my facility?
- A.** The Department requires that the POR name and certification number is posted on the pool rules sign or on a separate sign so that it is visible to the public. The Department also finds it helpful for facilities to post a copy of the POR's certification in the pump room inside the log book. This helps the Department verify that your POR still has a valid license to operate pools in SC.
- Q.** Where can I get a copy of the 2017 Pool Log Book for my facility?
- A.** You can obtain a free copy of the 2017 Pool Log Book from your local DHEC office. Please be sure to get one for each pool you have. (See DHEC office numbers and locations on the back page of this newsletter).
- Q.** What should I do to get the pool ready to open for the 2017 Swimming Season?
- A.** Make sure you have all safety equipment in place, the recirculation and disinfection system is operating

properly, the pool chemicals are within the SCDHEC Standards, the pool drains are visible, both male and female restrooms are operating, there is a emergency notification device within 200 feet of the pool, all required signage is posted based on the type of pool you have, and that you have a 2017 log book. Make sure the pool water is tested every day the pool is open and that there is a POR that checks the pool a minimum of 3 times per week.

- Q.** I want to replace outdated or broken equipment around the pool. What is required by DHEC?
- A.** Whenever modifications are made to a public swimming pool, DHEC requires that you submit a Change Order Request Form for review and approval prior to commencement of the desired work. You can obtain a copy of the Change Order Request Form by visiting: [www.scdhec.gov/library/D-3627.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/library/D-3627.pdf)
- Q.** What should I do when vomit or fecal matter is in my pool?
- A.** Close the pool or spa immediately. The type of fecal event that occurred (formed or loose stool) will determine the concentration of chlorine and disinfection time. You should treat vomit as you would a formed fecal incident. Please visit the following website for more detailed information: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pdf/fecal-incident-response-guidelines.pdf>
- Q.** How do I properly fill in a pool or spa and let DHEC know that the pool is no longer in operation?
- A.** DHEC requires that a Change Order Request Form be submitted that describes the procedure and materials that will be used to fill in the pool or spa prior to the commencement of any work.

The first step should be to remove the water and drainage connections. The next step is to choose how it will be filled in, any of the following (3) methods are acceptable:

- Fill the pool in with concrete.
- Completely pierce the pool shell at the deepest point, creating a hole that is at least a 1ft x 1ft, and fill the pool with uncontaminated, clean soil that does not contain any logs or stumps.
- Destroy and remove all concrete and steel associated with the pool shell, and fill in the hole completely with uncontaminated clean soil.

Once the pool is filled in, there must be no subsequent settling that causes the water to pond. Following the completion of the work, schedule an inspection with your local DHEC office to verify that the pool has been properly filled in.



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control  
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