



Lincoln County Environmental Health

115 W. Main Street
Lincolnton, NC 28092
PHONE: 704-736-8426
FAX: 704-736-8427



Lincoln County Environmental Health Swimming Pool Operating Permit Checklist:

- ❖ Pools must be operated in accordance with the Rules Governing Public Swimming Pools 15A NCAC 18A .2500. Pools may not open for use if an immanent hazard is found (6 point demerit violation). Critical violations, which include 6 point, 4 point or repeat violations found during a permitting inspection will deem the pool unsafe for use and a permit to operate will not be issued. A **\$75.00** wasted trip fee must be paid before a re-inspection will be made.
- ❖ You may view a copy of your previous inspection at www.lincolncounty.org under the Links Tab or at the Environmental Health office.

Water Quality

- ❖ Evaluate water chemistry the morning, midday and afternoon of inspection day. Pool records must be available for review **including records from the previous year**. Pool records must be maintained at the pool site for a period of not less than six months.
- ❖ Records shall include daily recordings of: [.2535 (11)]
 - Disinfectant
 - Chlorine must be at least 1.0 ppm for pools;
 - Chlorine must be at least 2.0 ppm for splash pads;
 - Operator cannot correct by adding granular chlorine directly to pool. Must be corrected thru chlorinator.
 - pH - Maintained within 7.2 to 7.8.
 - Water clarity - Pool floor and main drains must be clearly visible.
 - Can you see the screws in the main drains?
 - Water temperature in heated pools and spas. [.2535 (12)]
 - Heated Pools Maximum = 90° F
 - Heated Spas Maximum = 104° F
 - Weekly recording of Cyanuric Acid and Total Alkalinity. Cyanuric Acid maintained below 100 ppm.
 - Record Books must be maintained onsite and must include recordings of activities pertaining to pool water maintenance including chemical additions and filter backwash cycles (including pool closures)
 - Test Kit – Provided with test reagents that are not expired. Shall be able to test for chlorine, pH, cyanuric acid and total alkalinity.

Drain Covers – Main Drain and Skimmer Equalizer Lines

- ❖ Verify that **main drain** and **skimmer equalizer covers** are in compliance with the **Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act** and replaced as needed or required by manufacturer. Many suction outlet covers require replacement every 5 years. Review your specifications and/or check with this department if you have questions about yours.
- ❖ Pool Drain Safety Compliance (PDSC) Form must be submitted when requested and with all suction outlet cover replacements.
- ❖ If skimmers are plugged, must be either plugged or plastered on the wall and also in the equalizer line inside the skimmer under the basket.
- ❖ Pools requiring secondary methods for preventing bather entrapment must meet Rule .2539. 1

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lincoln County Health Department provides quality health services to promote a healthy community.

VISION STATEMENT

Lincoln County Health Department services will promote healthy lifestyles through prevention, preparedness, and education.

- The Safety Vacuum Release System must be operating in accordance with operation instructions. The SVRS must be tested at least annually by the CPO. SVRS must be tested while inspector is present.

Pool Maintenance

- ❖ Certified Pool operator – Daily visits and record keeping
- ❖ Vacuum Fittings – Vacuum ports must have a secured cap or self-closing, self-latching cap.
- ❖ Skimmers
 - All weirs in place and baskets in good repair.
 - Skimmer lids in good repair with no cracks or damage.
- ❖ Pool Floors and Walls – Must be clean and in good repair. Will chipped plaster cut?
 - Plaster shall not be dark as stated in Rule .2514.
- ❖ Depth Markers – 4” in height for numbers and letters. Markers shall be no greater than 25 ft. apart, in good repair and legible.
 - Measure depth markers around the perimeter of the swimming pool as close to the edge of pool as possible.
 - Located at point of maximum and minimum depth and both ends of pool; located at the transition point and where diving occurs.
- ❖ No Diving Markers – 4” in height for lettering or red and black international No Diving. Not greater than 25 ft. apart.
- ❖ Inlets and Fittings – Must be in good repair and in place.
- ❖ Contrasting Color Band – must be in good repair; 2” wide contrasting color band to edge of step or 2” X 2” tile no greater than 1” from step edge and pool wall. [.2521]
- ❖ Breakpoint – pools greater than 5 ft. in depth
 - Safety Rope – ¾” safety rope provided at breakpoint for pools great than 5 ft. Rope shall have colored floats not greater than five ft. between.
 - 2” wide contrasting color band across the pool bottom.

Premises and Safety

- ❖ Emergency pool phone [15A NCAC 18A .2530 (f)]
 - Emergency dialing instructions are posted at the pool phone.
 - Pool address and phone number posted with emergency dialing instructions.
 - The 911 operator can be clearly heard and must have the correct location information (address) and phone number for the pool.
- ❖ Signage [.2530] Signs must be in good repair and visible upon entrance to pool.
 - “WARNING – NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY” in minimum height of 4” – exact wording required.
 - “ADULTS SHOULD NOT SWIM ALONE” in minimum height of 1” – exact wording required.
 - “CHILDREN SHOULD NOT USE THE SWIMMING POOL WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION” in minimum height of 1” – exact wording required.
 - Sign prohibiting pets and glass in pool area – no size or language restriction.
 - Shower sign instructing users to shower before entering pool – no size or language restriction.
 - ***Assure all lettering including lowercase letters meets size requirements.
- ❖ Safety Equipment
 - A US coast guard approved ring buoy in good repair with a minimum ¼” diameter throwing rope as long as one and one-half times the maximum width of the pool or 50 feet, whichever is less and;
 - A pole not less than 12 ft. long, with a body hook securely attached. Pole must be non-telescoping, non-adjustable and non-collapsible.
 - Pools great than 3000 sq. ft. must have two sets of safety equipment.
 - **OR** pools may be lifeguarded during all hours of operation [.2530 (a)(b)]

- ❖ Decks – maintain 6 ft. clearance around pool – 8 ft. for pools > 1600 sq. ft.;
 - No trip hazards present (> ½ ” protrusions or offsets)
 - Over the rim fill spouts – no greater than 6” from ladder handrails or must be directly under diving board.
- ❖ Lighting – Inspector must verify lighting if applying for Night Swimming. Separate night inspection required for verification.

Barrier – Fence and Gate Requirements

- ❖ Pool Built Post-2010
 - Shall be at least 48” in height measured from the outside of the fence from ground.
 - Distance between vertical members may be 4” or less.
 - Distance from bottom horizontal measured to next horizontal must be 45” or greater.
 - Chain Link Fence – Mesh size must be 2.25” square.
 - Footholds – anything located on the gate/fence or directly outside the gate/fence less than 45” that someone can stand on or get to over the fence (> ½ “protrusions). I.e. Cable Boxes, electrical conduit boxes, etc.
 - Distance Under Fence – measured from the outside of the fence may be 2” or less.
 - Decorative cut-outs shall not exceed 1.75” in width.
- ❖ Gates – Regardless of Construction Date
 - Shall be at least 48” in height measured from the outside of the fence from ground.
 - Distance between vertical members may be 4” or less.
 - Distance from bottom horizontal measured to next horizontal must be 45” or greater. Pools built prior to 2010, distance may be between 30”and 45”.
 - Shall swing away from the pool.
 - Decorative cut-outs shall be exceed 1.75” in width.
 - Must be self-latching, self-closing.
 - Gates build prior to 2010, may swing towards the pool where topography, landscape or emergency egress may prevent the gate from swinging away from the pool.
- ❖ Gate Latches – Regardless of construction Date
 - 54” measured from ground to bottom of latch;
 - If self-latching device is less than 54”, the latch shall be located on the inside of the gate at least 3” below the top of the gate with no greater than ½ “ within 18” of the latch mechanism (mesh – ½ “ x ½ “ or less required); or
 - Use of combination or card reader. No height requirement for electronic systems.
- ❖ Doors – Regardless of Construction Date
 - Doors leading on to pool deck must be self-latching, self-closing or protected by audible alarm.
- ❖ Windows – Regardless of Construction Date
 - Ground level windows shall be protected by audible alarm or may not open greater than 4: on to pool deck.

Equipment Room

- ❖ Chemical Feeders – NSF approved and in good working order.
 - Liquid Feeder shall be verified during inspection. Chlorinator and/or acid feeder shall detect flow of water and turn off when no water flowing through pump.
 - If salt water pool-shall have a back-up chlorinator.
- ❖ Pump – Operational and matches what is on PDSC form.

- Extra basket provided for pump.
- ❖ Filter and Recirculation -
 - No large leaks. Equipment is functioning properly.
 - Pressure gauge operating properly and shows pressure reading.
 - Cartridge filters shall have additional cartridge available.
- ❖ Flow Meter – Must be operating properly and located on return line. The flow meter must indicate the flow of water returned to the pool. If the flow meter is not operational, repair or replace it immediately!

The *NC Rules Governing the Sanitation of Public Swimming Pools* 15A NCAC 18A .2500 can be accessed at:
<http://ehs.ncpublichealth.com/faf/pti/pools.htm>.