

ARTICLE 8. PUBLIC AND SEMIPUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHING PLACES

R9-8-801. Definitions

In this Article, unless otherwise specified:

1. “Artificial lake” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
2. “Backwash” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
3. “Bathing place” means a volume of water that is used for water contact recreation.
4. “Clean” means free from slime, scum, dirt, or other debris.
5. “Deck” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
6. “Department” means the Arizona Department of Health Services.
7. “Incontinent” means unable to restrain a bowel movement.
8. “Local health department” has the same meaning as in R9-18-101.
9. “Maximum bathing load” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
10. “Natural bathing place” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
11. “Operate” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
12. “Operator” means an individual who owns, runs, maintains, or otherwise controls or directs the functioning of a bathing place.
13. “Oxidation-reduction potential” means the measurement in millivolts of the potential for transfer of electrons from one atom or molecule to another in water.
14. “Potable water” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
15. “Ppm” means parts per million.
16. “Private residential spa” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
17. “Private residential swimming pool” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
18. “Public health services district” has the same meaning as “district” in A.R.S. § 48-5801.
19. “Public spa” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
20. “Public swimming pool” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
21. “Regulatory authority” means the Department or a local health department or public health services district operating under a delegation of authority from the Department.
22. “Sanitary facility” means a designated area that includes a toilet, urinal, sink, or shower.
23. “Scum” means a film that forms on the surface of water.
24. “Semi-artificial bathing place” means a lake, pond, river, stream, swimming hole, or hot spring that is modified to be used for water contact recreation.
25. “Semipublic spa” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
26. “Semipublic swimming pool” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
27. “Shallow area” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
28. “Shock treatment” means adding chlorine to water to elevate the free chlorine residual to 20 ppm and destroy ammonia and nitrogenous and organic contaminants in the water.
29. “Slime” means a glutinous or viscous liquid matter.
30. “Spa” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
22. “Surface water” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-11-101.
23. “Swimming pool” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
24. “Turnover rate” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
25. “Wading pool” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
26. “Water circulation system” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
27. “Water circulation system components” has the same meaning as in A.A.C. R18-5-201.
28. “Water fountain” means a bathing place that functions by using mechanical means to propel a stream of water out of an opening or structure.
29. “Water contact recreation” means an activity for enjoyment in which an individual wets all or part of the individual’s body with water.

R9-8-802. Applicability

This Article does not apply to:

1. A private residential swimming pool,
2. A private residential spa,
3. A bathing place used for medical treatment or physical therapy supervised by licensed medical personnel, or
4. A body of water that is not used as a bathing place.

R9-8-803. Public and Semipublic Swimming Pool and Spa Water Quality and Disinfection Standards

- A. An operator of a public or semipublic swimming pool or spa shall ensure that:
1. The swimming pool or spa is filled only with potable water;
 2. The water in the swimming pool or spa:
 - a. Complies with the water quality standards in this Section when the swimming pool or spa is open for water contact recreation;
 - b. Maintains a pH of between 7.2 and 7.8;
 - c. Maintains a total alkalinity of between 60 and 100 ppm; and
 - d. Is sufficiently clear so that the main drain in the swimming pool or spa is visible from the deck of the swimming pool or spa;
 3. The surface of the water in the swimming pool or spa is free from scum and floating debris;
 4. The bottom and sides of the swimming pool or spa are free from sediment, dirt, slime, and algae;
 5. The chemical disinfection level, pH, total alkalinity, and temperature of the water is tested at least once daily; and
 6. A daily operating log that includes the results of the tests in subsection (A)(5) is maintained for 12 months from the date of the test and is available to a regulatory authority or a member of the public upon request.

- B.** An operator of a public or semipublic swimming pool or spa:
1. Shall not use chloramine as a primary disinfectant in the swimming pool or spa;
 2. Shall not add gaseous disinfectant directly into the swimming pool;
 3. Shall not add dry or liquid disinfectant directly into the swimming pool or spa for routine disinfection; and
 4. May add dry or liquid disinfectant directly into the swimming pool or spa for shock treatment.
- C.** An operator of a public or semipublic swimming pool or spa using chlorinated isocyanurates or cyanuric acid stabilizer for disinfection and stabilization in the swimming pool or spa shall ensure that the water in the swimming pool or spa maintains an oxidation-reduction potential equal to or greater than 650 millivolts and that cyanuric acid levels, whether from chlorinated isocyanurates or from the separate addition of cyanuric acid stabilizer, do not exceed 150 ppm.
- D.** An operator of a public or semipublic swimming pool shall ensure that the water in the swimming pool meets one of the following chemical disinfection standards:
1. A free chlorine residual between 1.0 and 3.0 ppm as measured by the N, N-Diethyl-p-phenylenediamine test,
 2. A free bromine residual between 2.0 and 4.0 ppm as measured by the N, N-Diethyl-p-phenylenediamine test, or
 3. An oxidation-reduction potential equal to or greater than 650 millivolts.
- E.** An operator of a public or semipublic spa shall ensure that:
1. A chlorine gas disinfection system is not used in the spa;
 2. The water temperature in the spa does not exceed 40EC; and
 3. The water in the spa meets one of the following chemical disinfection standards:
 - a. A free chlorine residual between 3.0 and 5.0 ppm as measured by the N, N-Diethyl-p-phenylenediamine test,
 - b. A free bromine residual between 3.0 and 5.0 ppm as measured by the N, N-Diethyl-p-phenylenediamine test, or
 - c. An oxidation-reduction potential equal to or greater than 650 millivolts.

R9-8-804. Public and Semipublic Swimming Pool and Spa Water Circulation Requirements

- A.** An operator of a public or semipublic swimming pool or spa shall ensure that:
1. The swimming pool or spa water circulation system complies with the water circulation requirements in 18 A.A.C. 5, Article 2; and
 2. The swimming pool or spa is equipped with:
 - a. A flow meter as specified in 18 A.A.C. 5, Article 2; and
 - b. A vacuum cleaning system as specified in 18 A.A.C. 5, Article 2.
- B.** An operator may draw water from a swimming pool for a water slide or a water fountain without filtering or disinfecting the water.

R9-8-805. Public and Semipublic Swimming Pool and Spa Maximum Bathing Loads

An operator of a public or semipublic swimming pool or spa shall ensure that the maximum bathing load, as specified in 18 A.A.C. 5, Article 2, is not exceeded.

R9-8-806. Posting Requirements

An operator of a public or semipublic swimming pool or spa shall ensure that a sign is posted within 50 feet of the swimming pool or spa, that includes the following instructions:

1. Use the toilet before entering the pool or spa;
2. Take a shower before entering the pool or spa;
3. Do not enter the pool with a cold, skin or other body infection, open wound, diarrhea, or any other contagious condition;
4. If incontinent, wear tight fitting rubber or plastic pants or a swim diaper; and
5. Observe all safety regulations.

R9-8-807. Public and Semipublic Swimming Pool and Spa and Bathing Place Facility Sanitation

- A.** An operator of a public or semipublic swimming pool or spa shall ensure that a sanitary facility at the public or semipublic swimming pool is maintained in a clean condition.
- B.** An operator of a public or semipublic swimming pool or bathing place shall provide a soap dispenser with liquid or powdered soap at each sink in a sanitary facility.

R9-8-808. Bathing Place Towels

If a towel is provided by a bathing place to an individual using the bathing place, an operator of the bathing place shall ensure that the towel is washed with soap or detergent and hot water and thoroughly dried after each individual use.

R9-8-809. Disposal of Sewage, Filter Backwash, and Wasted Swimming Pool or Spa Water

An operator of a public or semipublic swimming pool or spa shall ensure that sewage, filter backwash, and swimming pool or spa water are disposed of according to A.A.C. R18-5-236.

R9-8-810. Fecal Contamination in Public and Semipublic Swimming Pools and Spas

- A.** If solid feces are found in a public or semipublic swimming pool or spa, an operator of the swimming pool or spa shall ensure that:
1. Each individual in the swimming pool or spa exits the swimming pool or spa and the swimming pool or spa is closed,
 2. The feces in the swimming pool or spa are removed and disposed of in a toilet,
 3. The chemical disinfection level of the water in the swimming pool or spa is tested to determine whether the water complies with the water quality and disinfection standards in R9-8-803, and
 4. The swimming pool or spa is not reopened until a test conducted under subsection (A)(3) indicates that the water complies with the water quality and disinfection standards in R9-8-803.
- B.** If liquid feces are found in a public or semipublic swimming pool or spa, an operator of the swimming pool or spa shall ensure that:
1. Each individual in the swimming pool or spa exits the swimming pool or spa and the swimming pool or spa is closed;
 2. The swimming pool or spa is closed for at least 24 hours;
 3. As much of the liquid feces as possible in the swimming pool or spa is removed and disposed of in a toilet;
 4. The swimming pool or spa is chemically treated with a shock treatment;
 5. The water in the swimming pool or spa is tested 24 hours after applying the shock treatment to determine whether the water complies with the water quality and disinfection standards in R9-8-803; and
 6. The swimming pool or spa is not reopened until a test conducted under subsection (B)(5) indicates that the water complies with the water quality and disinfection standards in R9-8-803.

R9-8-811. Natural and Semi-artificial Bathing Place and Artificial Lake Water Quality Standards

An operator of a public or semipublic natural bathing place, a semi-artificial bathing place, or an artificial lake shall ensure that the public or semipublic natural bathing place, semi-artificial bathing place, or artificial lake meets the narrative and numeric water quality standards in 18 A.A.C. 11, Article 1 when the public or semipublic natural bathing place, semi-artificial bathing place, or artificial lake is open for water contact recreation.

R9-8-812. Inspections

- A.** A regulatory authority shall inspect a bathing place to determine whether the bathing place complies with this Article.
- B.** A regulatory authority shall inspect a public swimming pool at least once each month that the swimming pool is open for water contact recreation.

R9-8-813. Cease and Desist and Abatement

- A.** Engaging in any practice in violation of this Article is a public nuisance.
- B.** If a regulatory authority has reasonable cause to believe that an operator of a public or semipublic swimming pool or bathing place is creating or maintaining a public nuisance at the public or semipublic swimming pool or bathing place, the regulatory authority shall order the operator to discontinue the activity and to abate the public nuisance as follows:
1. The regulatory authority shall serve on the operator a written cease and desist and abatement order requiring the operator to discontinue the activity and to remove the public nuisance at the operator's expense within 24 hours after service of the order. The order shall contain:
 - a. A reference to the statute or rule that is alleged to have been violated or on which the order is based,
 - b. A description of the operator's right to request a hearing, and
 - c. A description of the operator's right to request an informal settlement conference.
 2. The regulatory authority shall serve the order and any subsequent notices by personal delivery or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the operator or other party's last address of record with the regulatory authority or by any other method reasonably calculated to effect actual notice to the operator or other party.
 3. The operator or another party whose rights are determined by the order may obtain a hearing to appeal the order by filing a written notice of appeal with the regulatory authority within 30 days after service of the order. The operator or other party appealing the order shall serve the notice of appeal upon the regulatory authority by personal delivery or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the office of the regulatory authority or by any other method reasonably calculated to effect actual notice on the regulatory authority. Appealing an order does not release the operator from the obligation to comply with the order.
 4. If a notice of appeal is timely filed, the regulatory authority shall do one of the following:
 - a. If the regulatory authority is the Department or a local health department or public health services district to which the duty to comply with A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10 is delegated, the notification and hearing shall comply with A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10 and any rules promulgated by the Office of Administrative Hearings.
 - b. For all other regulatory authorities, the notification and hearing shall comply with the procedures adopted by a county board of supervisors as required by A.R.S. § 36-183.04(E).
 5. If a written notice of appeal is not timely filed, the order becomes final.
 6. A regulatory authority shall inspect the public or semipublic swimming pool or bathing place 24 hours after service of the order to determine whether the operator has complied with the order. If the regulatory authority determines upon inspection that the operator has not ceased the activity and abated the public nuisance, the regulatory authority shall cause the public nuisance to be removed.

(Reprinted from the Arizona Administrative Code, Department of Health Services—Food, Recreational and Institutional Sanitation: Title 9, Ch. 8, Article 7. Public and Semipublic Pools, 12/31/11)



As described in R9-8-1312(A), the Navajo County Public Health Services District is designated by the Arizona Department of Health Services to enforce these regulations within Navajo County, Arizona.

The requirements listed here represent the minimum requirements provided under the Arizona Administrative Code. Local jurisdictions may have more stringent requirements and it is the duty of the operator to discover and comply with all local building, zoning, fire, safety, and any other local codes that may apply. The Navajo Public Health Services District will not issue a 'Permit to Operate' should a establishment fail to comply with all applicable local codes pertaining to the same subject matter as the above regulations.

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