

# Criteria for Immediate Closure of a Pool

## The Issue

Pool staff are responsible for closing a pool when imminent conditions could cause illness or injury to patrons. During operating hours, each facility needs at least one staff member with the responsibility and authority to close the pool. A pool is subject to immediate closure when any of the conditions listed below are seen.

Issue	Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unsecured pool enclosures <i>Gates shall be self-closing and self-latching</i></li> </ul>	Risk of drowning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency telephone or alarm system missing or not working properly (where applicable)</li> </ul>	No means to get help
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No automatic shut-off or shut-off not working (where applicable)</li> </ul>	Risk of entrapment, evisceration, and drowning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of lifesaving safety equipment or equipment not in good repair</li> </ul>	Unable to help in an emergency situation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of supervisory personal and/or required lifeguards, or lack of required number of lifeguards (where applicable)</li> </ul>	Risk of drowning or serious injury
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor water clarity <i>Must be able to clearly see the main drain of the pool and/or must pass the black disc test</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk of injury when swimmer cannot see pool bottom</li> <li>Risk of drowning when others cannot see if someone is in trouble under the water</li> <li>Sign of ineffective disinfection and/or filtration system</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of disinfectant residual in pool water and no disinfectant available on site to resolve the issue</li> </ul>	Risk of transmitting disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pH levels outside of acceptable range <i>pH above 8 ppm and no product to lower it to appropriate range (Pool)</i></li> </ul>	Risk to water quality and effectiveness of disinfectant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fecal matter (solid or diarrheal), vomit, or chemical release in the pool <i>See fact sheets</i></li> </ul>	Risk of transmitting disease or injury

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<b>Issue</b>	<b>Risk</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Filtration or circulation system not working or is not working properly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk of transmitting disease</li> <li>Increased risk of high turbidity (cloudy water) interfering with pool clarity</li> <li>Reduced ability to disinfect properly</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Missing or damaged drain cover or fittings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk of suction entrapment and entanglement</li> <li>Risk of drowning</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ground fault circuit interrupter missing or not working properly</li> </ul>	<p>Risk of electrical shock</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improper chemical storage</li> </ul>	<p>Risk of fire, explosion, release, and injury to anyone in or around the facility</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other hazardous conditions</li> </ul>	<p>Risk of physical injury (e.g., power outage, broken glass, severe weather at outdoor pools such as thunder and lightning, water too hot in spas, or any other imminent health risk)</p>