

Section 3: Hygienic Facility



Rationale:

Patron cleanliness and hygienic habits play a key role in water and air quality and the transmission of recreational water illness. Providing safe, clean, well-stocked, and accessible hygienic facilities can only encourage their use.

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3.1 Partitions, Walls, and Floors

Recommendations:

- Surfaces shall be maintained to ensure ease of cleaning and disinfection and shall be designed and maintained to minimize bacterial growth.
- Floors shall be constructed and maintained non-slip (slip resistant), smooth, and impervious with no open cracks, be maintained free of tripping hazards including uneven surfaces or changes in elevation, and free from any physical hazard that may cause injury to bare feet.
- The covered juncture between the wall and floor and extending upward on the wall shall be maintained to allow for ease of cleaning.

3.2 Change Rooms

Recommendations:

- Change rooms shall include lockers (when appropriate), toilet facilities, cleansing showers, diaper change tables, and hand basins.
- They shall be constructed and renovated in accordance with provincial and local codes.
- They shall be maintained, cleaned and disinfected in a sanitary manner and procedures shall be included in the cleaning and preventative maintenance part of the Aquatic Safety Plan.

3.2.1 Cleansing showers

Recommendations:

- Tempered water only shall be provided at all showerheads.
- Water heater and thermostatic mixing valve should not be accessible to bathers.
- Showers should be supplied with wall-mounted soap dispensers.
- Showers shall be cleaned and disinfected daily or as demand requires.

3.2.2 Hand wash stations

Recommendations:

Hand wash stations shall include

- hand wash sink
- hot and cold running potable water (refer to Section 6.1, Water Source - source water)
- adjacent wall-mounted liquid soap dispenser
- hand drying device or paper towels dispenser, and trash receptacle
- any replacement mirrors shall be made with shatter-proof glass

3.2.3 Diaper change tables

Rationale:

Proper hand washing and cleaning and sanitizing of diaper change tables help prevent diarrheal illness.

Recommendations:

All aquatic facilities allowing diaper-aged bathers shall have at least one diaper change table in each male and female washroom, or make available a baby change table in a unisex or family change room (if available). Each shall be equipped with, at a minimum

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- a hand wash sink, as described above, adjacent to the diaper change table
- signage indicating proper disposal of diapers, waste, hand washing of the care provider and child, and warning against swimming if ill with diarrhea
- a lined trash receptacle
- a Health Canada approved (shall have a drug identification number) sanitizer (disinfectant) to maintain a clean and disinfected diaper change unit surface before and after use

Changing diapers at pool side shall be prohibited.
See also Appendix 8: Example: Pool and Spa Signage

3.2.4 Solid waste disposal

Recommendations:

- Solid waste shall be removed at a frequency necessary to prevent attracting vectors (e.g., flies) or causing odor.
- Solid waste shall be disposed of in compliance with local codes.

3.2.5 Sanitary sewage disposal

Recommendation:

- The disposition of sanitary sewage from the hygienic facilities shall be into a sanitary sewer or an on-site sewage disposal system that is approved by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment.

3.2.6 Sharps containers

Rationale:

Sharps are any item that may penetrate the skin (e.g., needles, blades, and razors). To prevent accidental needle stick injury by those handling garbage or who may come into contact with a used sharp, sharps shall be disposed of in an approved sharps container and not with the regular waste.

Recommendations:

- Approved sharps containers that are marked with a bio-hazardous label are required for the safe disposal of used sharps.
- Sharps containers shall be out of reach of children and located in each washroom/change area.
- Signage shall be posted indicating the requirement of discarding used sharps into an approved sharps container immediately after use.
- A sharps container is considered full when it is at three-quarters of capacity, at which point it is securely closed and disposed of.

Sharps and biomedical waste should not be disposed of with municipal solid waste.