



**PLAN REVIEW FOR PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS**

NAME OF BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER/CONTRACTOR \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTION/REMODELING TO BEGIN \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWED BY \_\_\_\_\_ REVIEW FEE \$150.00

Whenever a swimming pool, spa or water slide is constructed or extensively remodeled, properly prepared plans and specifications for such construction, remodeling or conversion shall be submitted for review and approval before construction, remodeling or conversion is begun. The plans and specifications shall indicate the proposed layout, arrangement, mechanical plans and construction materials of the pool, spa or water slide area(s) and the type and model of proposed fixed equipment and facilities. A duly authorized representative shall approve the plans and specifications if they meet the requirements of the health-related ordinances and construction standard regulations of the Texas Department of Health. A fee may be charged for this service.

The attached requirements represent minimal health code requirements but are not to be considered as totally inclusive of all requirements. Compliance with the Standards for Swimming Pools & Spas (Texas Dept. of State Health Services) shall be required. Also, local requirements must be met before a Health Permit is issued for operation. Any alteration of the plans may result in non-compliance with Health Department Codes, and should be first discussed with this office.

PLAN REVIEWER'S COMMENTS:

<p>Owner: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APPROVED</b></p> <p>Plan Reviewer: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>
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**PLAN REVIEW & PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS, AND WATER SLIDES**

**A. DEFINITION.**

"Pool" means any artificial body of water, including a permanent swimming pool, permanent wading or reflection pool, or permanent hot tube or spa over 18 inches deep, located at ground level, above ground, below ground, or indoors, maintained expressly for public or semipublic recreational purposes, swimming and similar aquatic sports or therapeutic purposes.

**B. REFERENCES.**

1. Texas Department of State Health Services "Standards for Public Swimming Pools & Spas"
1. Texas Department of Health's "Design Standards for Public Swimming Pool Construction," 3/86.
2. Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 757, effective January 1, 1994.

**C. SUBMISSION OF PLANS.**

One set of properly prepared plans and specifications drawn to scale (1 inch = 1 foot), must be submitted to the Health Department--one copy for the Health Department, one for the City, and one (site copy) to be returned to the applicant. Health Department comments will be made on this Plan Review form and provided to the applicant. The Health Department reviewer may be contacted at 903-465-2878.

**D. TIME LIMITATIONS ON CONSTRUCTION/REMODELING.**

Remodeling or new construction must begin and end in accordance with the time limits of the project's Building Permit.  
 If the proposed remodeling or new construction is not initiated or completed and approved by the former departments before the expiration of the project's Building Permit, plans must be resubmitted with the then-existing plan review fee.

**E. INSPECTIONS OF FACILITIES BY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

Contact the plan reviewer at 465-2878 to schedule a preliminary inspection at least 7 days before construction is completed.  
 Contact the plan reviewer to schedule a final inspection before opening for business.

**F. ALTERATION(S) TO PLANS.**

Before any alterations are made to these submitted plans, contact the plan reviewer.

**G. WATER SUPPLY.**

The water supply shall be a public water system or an approved individual source that meets the requirements of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.  
 Fill Spout, if used, shall conform to §265.194(d,e)  
 A drinking fountain shall be supplied in the pool area

**H. SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**

All sewage and backwash water shall be disposed into a public sewage system or an approved individual sewage disposal system that meets State and local requirements.  
 No direct connection between the pool's drainage discharge and the sewage system is permitted. All waste water must be discharged through an indirect waste.

**I. POOL, SPA, SLIDE LOCATION.**

The facility must not be subject to watershed drainage from surrounding areas.

**J. FENCING.**

The pool shall be completely enclosed by a fence or enclosure.  
 The height of the fence/enclosure must be at least 48 inches as measured from the ground on the side away from the water facility. Some cities require a higher fence.  
 Gates must have a self-closing, self-latching device.  
 Gates must have hardware enabling them to be locked, at the option of whoever controls the gate, by a padlock or a built-in lock operated by key, card, or combination.  
 Gates must open outward from the pool facility.  
 A gate latch must be installed so that it is at least 60 inches above the ground, except that it may be installed lower if:  
1. The latch is installed on the pool yard side of the gate only and is at least 3 inches below the top of the gate; and  
2. The gate or enclosure has no opening greater than one-half inch in any direction within 18 inches from the latch, including the space between the gate and the gate post to which the gate latches.  
 A gate latch may be located 42 inches or higher above the ground if the gate cannot be opened except by key, card, or combination on both sides of the gate.

## PLAN REVIEW & PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS, AND WATER SLIDES

- Openings under the pool yard enclosure may not allow a sphere 4 inches in diameter to pass under the pool yard enclosure.
- If the pool yard enclosure is constructed with horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is at least 45 inches, the openings may not allow a sphere 4 inches in diameter to pass through the enclosure.
- If the pool yard enclosure is constructed with horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches, the openings may not allow a sphere 1-3/4 inches in diameter to pass through the enclosure.
- The use of chain link fencing materials is prohibited entirely for new pool enclosure that is constructed after January 1, 1994. The use of diagonal fencing members that are lower than 49 inches above the ground is prohibited for a new pool yard enclosure that is constructed after January 1, 1994.
- Decorative designs or cutouts on or in the pool yard enclosure may not contain any openings greater than 1-3/4 inches in any direction.
- Indentations or protrusions in a solid pool yard enclosure without any openings may not be greater than normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints on the side away from the pool.
- Permanent equipment or structures may not be constructed or placed in a manner that makes them readily available for climbing over the pool yard enclosure.
- The wall of a building may be part of the pool yard enclosure only if the doors and windows in the wall comply with the following:
  1. A wall of a building constructed on or after January 1, 1994, may not be used as part of a pool yard enclosure unless each ground floor window in the wall is permanently closed and unable to be opened.
  2. A door, sliding glass door, or French door may not open directly in a pool yard if the date of electrical service for the initial construction of the building or pool is on or after January 1, 1994.

### K. CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL.

- No direction connection between the water of the pool/spa/slide is permitted unless approved double backflow protection devices are installed. Backflow prevention devices are required on all hose bibbs used to fill the pool/spa/slide or hose attached anywhere in the pool enclosure.
- After construction of the pool/spa/slide, contact the appropriate city government for an inspection, before requesting a final inspection from the Health Department.

### L. POOL BASIN DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION.

- The basin of the pool must meet the minimum State requirements in regards to design and structural stability. For details see TDH's Design Standards for Public Swimming Pool Construction, Sections 6.0, 7.0, 10.0, and 11.0.

### M. DECK DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION.

- A continuous deck at least 4 feet wide shall extend completely around the pool.
- The deck shall be constructed of concrete or other approved material finished with a smooth, easily-cleanable surface.
- The deck drains shall not be connected to the pool's recirculation system.
- All deck surfacings shall be free of open joints or projections that would pose a stubbing hazard (toes).
- Astroturf type coverings are prohibited in the deck area.

### N. RECIRCULATION.

- Capacity of pool/spa/slide in gallons: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Surface area of pool/spa/basin in square feet: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Water turnover rate shall be at least once every: 6 hours for swimming pools and slides; 0.5 hours for spas; ~~1 hour~~ for wading pools.
- Sand type filters shall filter at a minimum rate of 3 gallons per minute per square foot of effective filter area. Diatomaceous earth type filters shall filter at a minimum rate of 2 gallons per minute per square foot of effective filter area.
- Overflow gutters or skimmers are required. At least one skimmer/500 square foot of water surface area or fraction thereof is required. Skimmer weirs are required. Locate skimmer locations on plans. Number of skimmers required \_\_\_\_\_.
- A sufficient number of inlets (1 per each 15 perimeter feet or if less than 66,000 gallons, 1 per every 6000 gallons) shall be located to produce uniform circulation of water and maintain uniform disinfection throughout the water of the pool/spa/slide. Designate inlet locations on plans. Number of inlets required \_\_\_\_\_.
- Inlets shall be equipped with adjustable, directional nozzles.
- A flow meter/rate of flow indicator shall be included on the recirculation system of the pool/spa/slide.
- Main drain discharge rates shall not exceed 1.5 ft/sec and such drains shall be equipped with proper covers or gratings (see §265.190 to preclude entrapment or entanglement of bathers. An antivortex main drain grating/cover is recommend for all systems with a single main drain or where high discharge velocities are encountered.
- All innovative (new) high pressure filters must be ISF (NSF) approved.

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### O. ENTRIES.

\_\_\_ New pools shall have a minimum of two entry/exits, one at the deep end and one at the shallow end. They shall conform to the requirements in §265.186

### P. DISINFECTION.

\_\_\_ An automatic chlorinating device or TDSHS approved disinfection system shall be attached to the recirculation system of the pool/spa/slide.  
\_\_\_ Documentation of TDSHS approval shall be submitted for any type of disinfection chemical or process utilized beside chlorine disinfection.

### Q. DECK AND FLOOR MARKINGS.

\_\_\_ Depth markings shall be properly spaced and located on the vertical walls of pool (wainscot) and the horizontal device.  
\_\_\_ Depth markings shall include units of measurement ("FT" for feet or "M" for meters).  
\_\_\_ Depth markings shall consist of conspicuous markings at least 4 inches high, contrasting color, and slip resistant.  
\_\_\_ Markings (4" on pool floor at the 5' transition or 1" on leading edges of steps/benches/recesses) shall consist of a conspicuous line, contrasting color, and slip resistant.  
\_\_\_ Markings on deck shall consist of the letters "NO DIVING" in combination with the international no diving symbol, in contrasting color, slip resistant, every 25', at depths of 6' or less.

### R. SIGNAGE.

\_\_\_ Within the pool enclosure, a conspicuous sign shall display (2" letters) the following information:  
1. Hours of operation.  
2. No glass allowed in pool area.  
3. Emergency rescue telephone numbers (911).  
\_\_\_ If no lifeguard on duty, post signage to this effect... "Warning - No Lifeguard on Duty" (4" letters) and "Children Should Not Use Pool Without Adult in Attendance" (2" letters).  
\_\_\_ Check additional signage in §265.185, 186, 187, 188, 198, 199, 192, 203, and 205

### S. SAFETY EQUIPMENT. (Required by City Ordinance)

\_\_\_ Within each swimming pool enclosure the following equipment shall be available for emergency use:  
1. A reaching pole (shepherd's hook, life pole) at least 12 feet in length with a handle consisting of nonconducting material.  
2. A flotation life ring or float board with an attached line which is at least one and half times the width of the pool.  
\_\_\_ A safety line with floats shall be provided across the pool at the pool's break depth point; see §265.199

### T. HANDRAILS.

\_\_\_ Handrails are required for each set of stairs, steps, or foot holes in the pool/spa/slide.

### U. LIGHTING.

\_\_\_ If the pool is operated during hours of darkness, the following minimum standards will apply:  
1. Underwater lighting shall provide a minimum of 0.5 watts per square foot of pool surface area.  
2. Area lighting shall provide at least 0.6 watts per square foot of deck area.  
3. Such lights shall be spaced to provide illumination so that all portions of the pool, including the bottom, may be readily seen without glare.

### V. VENTILATION.

\_\_\_ Ventilation at indoor pools shall conform to ASHRAE 62-1989

### W. DIVING AREAS.

\_\_\_ Diving areas incorporated into the design of pools shall be the minimum State requirements in regards to design and structural stability. For details, see §265.186.

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