

# Reopening Public Swimming Pools/Spas after Flooding

After a flood event, an operator/owner of a public swimming pool/spa should conduct damage assessments and implement cleaning protocols to ensure that normal operations can be resumed safely and without compromising the health and safety of the public.

All floodwater should be considered contaminated with harmful microorganisms and dangerous chemicals. The following steps will help you clean and disinfect your swimming pool/spa:

1. Drain your swimming pool/spa.
2. Remove all the silt and organic matter, like dirt and leaves.
3. Remove any remaining standing water using a wet vacuum.
4. Assess for damage.
5. Refill the swimming pool/spa with potable water and treat the water as if there had been a diarrheal accident and may contain *Cryptosporidium* oocysts.
6. Chemically balance the water.
7. Submit a bacteriological water sample to a certified lab for testing.
8. Confirm with our Division that your bacteriological water sample was satisfactory.
9. Contact our Division to conduct an inspection of the swimming pool/spa prior to reopening.

If your swimming pool/spa has not been impacted by the flood but experienced a power outage, please follow these guidelines:

## Daylight Hours of Operation:

1. Close the pool within 15 to 30 minutes of the power outage and direct all bathers out of and away from the water.
2. Turn recirculation systems off.
3. Turn any additional pool related electrical equipment off.
4. Leave a light or small appliance (radio) turned on so you can quickly tell when power has been restored.
5. When power returns:
  - a. Turn recirculation system on in stages if more than one pump is involved in the system.
  - b. Test water chemistry to ensure water quality standard is met.
  - c. Reset all timer clocks for lighting and recirculation systems.
  - d. Ensure the spa emergency shut-off switches are working properly.
6. Once you are satisfied that all pool equipment is operating properly, and the water quality is satisfactory, then the pool may be reopened.

*Grounded in Health*

**Nighttime Hours of Operation:**

1. Some effort should be made prior to a power outage to provide some form of emergency lighting around the swimming/spa pool, such as auxiliary battery powered lighting or flashlight.
2. Close the pool immediately, all bathers must be directed out of and away from the water.
3. Check the bottom of pool with flashlight to ensure all bathers are out of the water.
4. Check restrooms for anyone who may have fallen or become injured in the dark.
5. Follow “Daylight Hours of Operation” guidelines steps 2 - 6.

To receive the most current information on potential flooding, subscribe to ReadyKern emergency alerts at [www.readykern.com](http://www.readykern.com).