

January 2025 Amendments Insert

Guide to Ontario Public Pools Regulation

The Ontario Government issued updates to the Ontario Provincial Pools Regulation (R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 565: PUBLIC POOLS) effective January 1, 2025.

This insert covers the required amendments to the current *Guide to Ontario Public Pools Regulation* for it to incorporate these updates.

The Society will publish a new edition of the Guide later this year that features the January 1, 2025 updates, regulatory clarifications and other improvements.



LIFESAVING SOCIETY

The Lifeguarding Experts

Page 10 **Replace modified pool definition at the bottom of the page with:**

modified pool means a public pool that has a basin-shaped floor sloping downward and inward toward the interior from the rim.

Page 11 **Add new content after wave action pool.**

Hot pool means any pool that has a temperature that is 35 C or greater and is subject to additional requirements under the regulation.

Note: In the case of a therapy pool that does not utilize hydrojet circulation, air induction bubbles, current flow or a combination of them over the majority of the pool area and is therefore not classified as a spa, the temperature should be kept between 32-34 and remain less than 35 degrees at all times. Therapy pools may then be used by children and adults participating in water exercise classes, learn to swim lessons or recreational swims

Public cold plunge pool means a public pool that is maintained at a temperature of 15 degrees Celsius or less, with or without hydrojets, that is not drained, cleaned, sanitized and refilled before use by each individual

Public floatation pool means a public pool that:

- contains a saturated bathing solution of magnesium sulphate for floatation purposes; and
- is not drained, cleaned, sanitized and refilled before use by each individual; and
- is designed for multiple persons

Public floatation tank means a basin, chamber or tank that:

- contains a saturated bathing solution of magnesium sulphate for floatation purposes,
- is not drained, cleaned, sanitized and refilled before use by each individual,
- is designed for up to two bathers, and
- provides a light and sound reduced environment

Page 13 **Add fourth bullet to Class C at the top of the page.**

A Class C pool may be any of the following:

- A public floatation tank

Page 15 Add two new bullets to pools exempt from the Regulation.

- private residential pools that are being made available to the public for use with or without charging an access fee, if the following notice is displayed in a conspicuous place within a public pool enclosure printed in letters at least 25 mm high with a minimum 5 mm stroke (see top of next page):

CAUTION
SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK
THIS POOL IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF
ONTARIO REGULATION 565 (PUBLIC POOLS)

- rowing club pools, where the pool water is used for rowing purposes and at no time does a bather enter the pool water

Page 15 Replace content of spas exemptions with:

The following spas are exempt from the Regulation:

- Private residential spas that are being made available to the public for use with or without charging an access fee
- A public spa operated on the premises of a hotel that has fewer than six dwelling units or suites for the use of its guests and their visitors, or a public spa operated in conjunction with an individual dwelling unit or suite of a hotel for the exclusive use of its occupants

In these instances, the following notice must be displayed in a conspicuous place within a public spa enclosure printed in letters at least 25 mm high with a minimum 5 mm stroke, along with the message required under subsection 19.1 (1), displayed with the same letter sizes required by that subsection:

CAUTION
USE SPA AT YOUR OWN RISK
THIS SPA IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF
ONTARIO REGULATION 565 (PUBLIC POOLS)

Page 22 Replace black disc content with:

All public pools must have a black disc 150 mm (6 in.) in diameter, on a white background, permanently affixed to the pool bottom at the deepest point.

Page 26 Replace Alkalinity content with:

Total alkalinity is within in the range of 60 to 180 ppm.

Page 26 **Replace Free Available Chlorine (FAC) content with:**

The residual of FAC of a pool is within the range of 0.5 to 10 ppm in every part of the pool other than a public floatation pool or cold plunge pool.

The minimum FAC increases to 1.0 ppm when cyanurate stabilization (outdoor pools) is used.

- (e.1) Where a pool is a public floatation pool or a public cold plunge pool, there is a residual of free available chlorine of at least 5 ppm and not more than 10 ppm in every part of the public floatation pool or public cold plunge pool.
- (e.2) Where a pool is a hot water pool that operates at a temperature of 35 degrees Celsius or greater, there is a residual of free available chlorine or total bromine in every part of the hot water pool of at least 5 ppm but not more than 10 ppm.

The method used to determine FAC residual must not be affected by compounds in the pool so that a false reading is given

Page 26 **Replace the second sentence under Bromine with:**

For pools using a bromine compound, the total bromine residual is within the range of 2 to 8 ppm.

Page 27 **Add content after Medical officer of health override.****Secondary Treatment System**

In addition to the requirements of subsection 7 (8), where a pool is a public floatation pool, it shall be equipped with a secondary treatment system of ultraviolet light disinfection that is appropriately sized for the public floatation pool and the system shall have an automatic shut off device or an audible and visual alarm in case of system failure.

Page 27 **Replace the fifth bullet under Chemical Tests.**

The following tests must be taken and recorded each operating day:

- Total alkalinity
- pH
- FAC and total chlorine or bromine residual
- Water clarity
- Water temperature in the case of spas and in the case of hot water pools that operate at a temperature of 35 degrees Celsius or greater

Page 64 **Replace the fourth bullet in the Black Disc section.**

This black disc must be:

- 150 mm (6 in.) in diameter
- Permanently affixed to the bottom on a white background at least 150 mm (6 inches) surrounding the black disc

Page 65 **Add two bullets to the end of Notices.**

- In the case of a pool facility that has multiple public pools, the same notices required above may be shared between two pools provided that at least two notices are posted at the pool facility and at least one notice shall be within the line of sight of bathers of each pool at all times.
- The following health warning notices must be posted in at least two places at the pool. Every owner and operator of a public pool that operates at a temperature of 35 degrees Celsius or greater shall ensure that the following message is posted in a conspicuous place at each entrance to the public pool that operates at a temperature of 35 degrees Celsius or greater with the word CAUTION in letters not less than 50 mm high, with all other lettering not less than 10 mm high and with a minimum 5 mm stroke in either case:

CAUTION

CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 12 ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE HOT WATER POOL UNLESS SUPERVISED BY A PERSON WHO IS 16 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.

PREGNANT WOMEN AND PERSONS WITH KNOWN HEALTH OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS SHOULD CONSULT WITH A PHYSICIAN BEFORE USING A HOT WATER POOL.

OVEREXPOSURE MAY CAUSE FAINTING. 10 TO 15 MINUTES MAY BE EXCESSIVE FOR SOME INDIVIDUALS. COOL DOWN PERIODICALLY AND LEAVE THE HOT WATER POOL IF NAUSEA OR DIZZINESS OCCURS.

ENTER AND EXIT HOT WATER POOL SLOWLY TO PREVENT SLIPPING.

Page 75 **Replace Spa Heater content with:**

Every owner of a public pool that operates at a temperature of 35 degrees Celsius or greater shall ensure that:

- the public pool's water heater is equipped with a tamper-proof upper limit cut-off switch that
 - limits the maximum temperature of the public pool's water to 40 degrees Celsius, and

- is independent of the public pool’s water temperature thermostat; and
- a clock is installed in a conspicuous location that can be viewed from anywhere in the public hot water pool.

Page 77

**Under WADING POOLS, SPRAY PADS, RECEIVING BASINS
(New) COLD PLUNGE, FLOATATION TANKS**

Add new content:

Cold Plunge Pools and Floatation Tanks

Every owner of a public cold plunge pool shall ensure that the public cold plunge pool is equipped with all of the following:

- A non-slip deck around the entrance to the public cold plunge pool.
- A handrail for entry into and out of the public cold plunge pool.
- A health warning sign with the following message posted in a conspicuous place at each entrance to the public cold plunge pool with the word CAUTION in letters not less than 50 mm high, with all other lettering not less than 10 mm high and with a minimum 5 mm stroke in either case:

CAUTION

CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 12 ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE COLD PLUNGE POOL UNLESS SUPERVISED BY A PERSON WHO IS 16 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.

USE OF A COLD PLUNGE POOL MAY TRIGGER A COLD SHOCK RESPONSE. PERSONS WITH KNOWN HEALTH OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS SHOULD CONSULT A PHYSICIAN BEFORE USING A COLD PLUNGE POOL.

ENTER AND EXIT THE COLD PLUNGE POOL SLOWLY TO PREVENT SLIPPING.

DO NOT PLAY OR SWIM NEAR DRAINS OR SUCTION DEVICES. YOUR BODY, BODY PARTS, HAIR, JEWELRY AND OTHER OBJECTS MAY BECOME TRAPPED AND CAUSE INJURY OR DROWNING. PEOPLE WITH LONG HAIR SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL.

DO NOT ENTER OR REMAIN IN A COLD PLUNGE POOL IF A DRAIN COVER OR SUCTION FITTING IS LOOSE, BROKEN OR MISSING. IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE COLD PLUNGE POOL OPERATOR.

- A clock installed in a conspicuous location that can be viewed from anywhere in the public cold plunge pool.

**Under WADING POOLS, SPRAY PADS, RECEIVING BASINS.
COLD PLUNGE, FLOATATION TANKS (continued)****Additional floatation tank requirements:**

1. Every owner and operator of a floatation tank shall,
 - a. provide a first aid kit, a device for emergency communications and emergency equipment which is appropriate for use in the floatation tank;
 - b. ensure that the water is treated with chlorine, a chlorine compound or a bromine compound by means of a chemical feeder, and is maintained so that in every part of the floatation tank, at all times during the daily use period,
 - i. the total alkalinity is maintained in the range of 80 ppm to 120 ppm,
 - ii. the pH value is within the range of 7.2 to 7.8,
 - iii. there is a residual of free available chlorine in every part of the floatation tank between 1.5 ppm and 5 ppm, or if bromine is used, between 2.5 ppm and 5 ppm, and
 - iv. the water temperature is maintained at less than 37 degrees Celsius;
 - c. test and record the requirements of clause (b) regarding the floatation tank water each operating day, a minimum of 30 minutes prior to opening and, subsequently, the lesser of every four hours or prior to each new bather;
 - d. provide a filtration system suitable to the tank design that is capable of ensuring the water has three turnovers of the tank between each bather; and
 - e. provide shower facilities available for bathers to shower before and after using the floatation tank.
2. Despite clause 1.b, alternative methods for filtering and disinfecting the water in a public floatation tank may be submitted for review and approval in writing by the local medical officer of health or a public health inspector for the health unit where the public floatation tank is situated.

Page 77 Under **WADING POOLS, SPRAY PADS, RECEIVING BASINS. COLD PLUNGE, FLOATATION TANKS** (continued)

New content:

Wading pools with a water depth of 15 cm or less:

Exception: The requirements regarding equipment, communications, and attendant do not apply to a public wading pool with a water depth of 15 cm less if

- a. the owner or operator provides notice to the medical officer of health or a public health inspector of the health unit where the public wading pool is situated that they will not be providing an attendant for supervision; and
- b. the owner or operator has developed a written safety plan to be available to any person, including the local medical officer of health or a public health inspector, upon request; and
- c. the following notice, printed in letters at least 25 mm high, is displayed in a conspicuous location within the public wading pool enclosure:

CAUTION

THIS POOL IS UNSUPERVISED. BATHERS UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE ARE NOT ALLOWED WITHIN THE PUBLIC WADING POOL ENCLOSURE UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR HIS OR HER AGENT WHO IS NOT LESS THAN SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

Page 80 **Replace first arrow bullet with:**

the total alkalinity is maintained in the range of 60 to 180 ppm