

SAN MATEO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION  
RECREATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM  
2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Suite 100  
San Mateo, CA 94403

The Recreational Health Program reminds pool owners/operators that whenever existing older public pools or spas are emptied for resurfacing (plastering, painting or fiber glassing), the pool must be brought up to correct pool code standards in the following areas:

1. If not already provided, a hand railing must be provided over all stairs extending from the deck to the bottom step tread. The upper railing surface shall not be less than 28 inches nor more than 34 inches above the deck and each step tread. The clearance between any hand railing and step riser shall be a minimum of 3 inches. Spas, with step risers greater than 9 inches must have double handrails.
2. Depth markers must be provided on both sides of a swimming pool at the shallowest and deepest depth, at all breaks in slope and on both ends of the pool. Spas must have a minimum of two depth markers. Water depth is measured from the floor of the pool to the middle of the tile line. Markers should indicate depth to the nearest 6 inches.
3. In swimming pools greater than five feet in depth, a four-inch straight line of slip-resistant contrasting tile must be placed along the floor of the pool where the water depth is 4-1/2 feet.
4. Spas, which are resurfaced, must also have a dark contrasting line of tile or other material along the edge of the steps and bench.
5. Any pool or spa skimmer equalizer line not fitted with an approved anti-hair entanglement type grate must at this time be installed.
6. Any pool or spa having a single skimmer with a single equalizer line must have a second equalizer line (Hydrolically balanced) installed at this time.
7. Spa Pools, which do not have the circulation pump and booster pump suction line split, must do so at this time.

Swimming pool shells must be white in color. Spa pools may be light pastel in color with a light reflectance value of 55% or more. All materials other than plaster must be approved by this Department.

Any changes to the pool shell, plumbing or equipment require prior approval from this Department. The issuance of a permit may be required.

For more specific details, contact this Department at (650) 372-6236.