



SAN MATEO COUNTY  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**

**California Virginia Graeme Baker Act (VGB)**

January 15, 2010

Dear Commercial Pool Owner:

**California's Virginia Graeme Baker Act was signed into law and went into effect January 1, 2010.** This notice is being provided in an effort to keep you informed of this law. To date, roughly 20% of commercial pools in San Mateo County have complied with the federal VGB rule. Our records indicate that your pool(s) are part of the 80% that have not yet complied.

The federal VGB Act has been law since 2007. The federal rule required all commercial pools to close by December 19, 2008 if not in compliance with its requirements; and remain closed until brought into compliance. Local health departments did not have the authority to enforce this federal rule. However, **as of January 1, 2010, local authorities are mandated to enforce its provisions.**

**The new statute has July 1, 2010 as the final compliance date in California. If your pools are not in compliance by this date, you will be required to close your pool(s) to the public until they meet all of the new law's requirements.**

Attached is a list of contractors that have already completed VGB retrofits in San Mateo County. A minor remodel permit from this office is required for a VGB retrofit. A Pool & Spa Construction/Remodel Application can be found at our website: [www.smhealth.org/environ/water](http://www.smhealth.org/environ/water). If you believe you have already complied, or if you have any questions pertaining to the new requirements, please call Environmental Health at (650) 372-6236 to discuss your specific situation.

One provision of the new law establishes a surcharge on public swimming pools that is collected by the local health department and transmitted to the State Controller for deposit into the State Recreational Health Fund to cover the State costs of administering the law. This \$6.00 surcharge will be added to the annual Environmental Health permit fee for each public swimming pool. The surcharge is mandated until January 1, 2014.

Your compliance in the elimination of all entrapment hazards in San Mateo County's public swimming pools is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Robinson, REHS

Enclosure: List of Pool Contractors

COMMUNITY HEALTH • ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Board of Supervisors: Mark Church • Rose Jacobs Gibson • Richard S. Gordon • Carole Groom • Adrienne Tissier  
Health System Chief: Jean S. Fraser

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[www.smhealth.org](http://www.smhealth.org)

## ADVISORY NOTICE

Date: December 30, 2008

To: Owners/Operators of Public Pools, Spas, and Wade Pools Located in San Mateo County

From: San Mateo County Environmental Health Department

Subject: **VIRGINIA GRAEME BAKER POOL AND SPA SAFETY ACT**

This is a notification letter to inform you about the new *Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act* (VGB) requirements. In December 2007, President Bush signed into law the VGB Act. The main purpose of this Act is to increase the safety of swimming pools and spas by establishing a federal swimming pool drain cover standard and ensuring pools and spas are equipped with proper safety devices. The federal law mandates that all public swimming pools and spas be equipped with anti-entrapment main drain covers that comply with ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 performance standards. In addition, the Act requires that all public pools have dual (split) main drains that are separated by at least 3 feet **OR** be equipped with a safety vacuum release system or other device designed to prevent entrapment.

The VGB Act requires that such modifications be in effect by December 19, 2008. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is the primary enforcement agency for the Act and they have the authority to close any public pool or spa found not to be in compliance on December 19, 2008. The San Mateo County Environmental Health Department cannot enforce the standards locally unless the California state law is amended to include the VGB Act.

However, please be advised that any renovations that include splitting drains, changing grates or adding devices to an existing pool or spa to meet the VGB Act must be approved by the San Mateo County Environmental Health Department and/or your local building department. Submittal of plans may be required for this work.

If you have questions regarding this advisory please contact:

- Ken Robinson, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, San Mateo County Environmental Health Department, at (650) 372-6236.
- Troy Whitfield, Consumer Product Safety Commission, at (301) 504-7548, for technical or engineering questions; or visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/whatsnew.html#pool> for information and interpretations of the VGB Act.

For a full text of the new VGB Act from the Federal Code, please visit the following web site: [http://www.nspf.org/Documents/HR6\\_TitleXIV.pdf](http://www.nspf.org/Documents/HR6_TitleXIV.pdf)

**1 *Can my pool or spa be shut down if we do not make the December 19, 2008, deadline for modifying the main drains?***

Public pools and spas that are not in operation or are closed for the season on December 19, 2008, do not need to meet the requirements of the Virginia Graeme Baker Act until they return to operation. Upon reopening, if the necessary modifications have not been made, the pool and/or spa could be subject to closure; however, as stated above, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is the enforcement agency. The Environmental Health Department cannot enforce the VGB Act standards locally unless the California state law is amended to include these requirements.

**2 *How do I know if my pool is currently in compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Act?***

If your pool or spa has a **single main drain** that is an “unblockable” drain (defined by the CPSC as having dimensions of **18 inches x 23 inches or larger**), then it is in compliance with the Act. If the pool or spa single main drain has dimensions **smaller than 18 inches x 23 inches**, it **is not** in compliance with the Act.

If your pool or spa has **dual main drains**, then complying with the Act would require replacing the main drain covers, as long as the covers are at least three (3) feet apart (connecting piping must have a “T” configuration), and they meet the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 performance standards. A licensed pool contractor or builder should inspect your pool and any work done should be performed by a licensed pool contractor. Remember, any renovations including splitting drains or adding devices to an existing pool or spa to meet the VGB Act must be approved by the San Mateo County Environmental Health Department and/or your local building department.

**3 *How can the single main drain in my pool be retrofitted to comply with the Virginia Graeme Baker Act?***

Any swimming pool or spa which is constructed with a **single main drain** must be equipped with an ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 approved cover AND a device or system designed to prevent entrapment such as one of the following:

- A safety vacuum release system (SVRS);
- A suction-limiting vent system;
- A gravity drainage system;
- An automatic pump shut-off system;
- A drain disablement device or system (only allowed for skimmer equalizer lines);
- Any other system determined by the CPSC to be equally or more effective as one of the above systems;
- The main drain can be split and have a “T” connection with a three-foot (3) separation between the suction outlets. Approved ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 main drain covers shall be installed over the two (2) outlets.

**4 *Can I do the work on my pool or do I need to hire someone to do it?***

This department highly recommends that a licensed pool builder or contractor make an assessment of your pool in order to determine the best option to bring the pool into compliance with the VGB Act. Remember, any renovations including splitting drains or adding devices to an existing pool or spa to meet the VGB Act must be approved by the San Mateo County Environmental Health Department and/or your local building department.

<b>Pool Contractor(s)</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>	<b>Telephone #</b>
<b>As of 6/30/10</b>					
Adams Pool Solutions	3675 Old Santa Rita Rd.	Pleasanton	CA	94588	925 324-0884
Allen's Pool Service & Supply	2366 Pruneridge Ave	Santa Clara	CA	95050	408 984-6737
Burkett's Pool Plastering Inc.	600 N. Frontage Rd.	Ripon	CA	95366	209 599-3317
California Aqua Pros	P.O. Box 1119	Discovery Bay	CA	94505	800 994-0262
Cool Pool Service Inc.	60 Los Altos Avenue	Los Altos	CA	94022	650 949-2435
Coral Pool and Spa	171 Branham Lane Suite 10-531	San Jose	CA	95136	480 294-7665
Coral Pool and Spa	164 Sun Blossom Dr.	San Jose	CA	95123	408 294-7665 408 466-1588 c
Corby Gould Pools	531 Mountain View Ave	Belmont	CA	94002	650 967-7665 408 930-5313
Gonzalez Masonry	6254 Thomas Ave.	Newark	CA	94560	510 913-4475
H2Operations	3530 18th St. #8	San Francisco	CA	94110	415 515-9097 415 839-7503
Hill's Pool Service Inc.	23 Edwards Ct.	Burlingame	CA	94010-2413	650 342-2484
Leslie's Pool Mart	387 Wright Bros. Ave	Livermore	CA	94551	408 835-5359
Lewis Pools	160 Cristich Ln.	Campbell	CA	95008	408 371-6690
LifeTime Pools	910 San Antonio Rd.	Palo Alto	CA	94303	650 494-7070
LifeTime Pools					
Pool Time	3950 Valley Ave Ste. A	Pleasanton	CA	94566	925 462-7665 925 580-0024 c
Precision Leak Detection	4464 Lone Tree Way, Suite 1021	Antioch	CA	94531	800 900-5325
Scuba Pool Repair	1320 Dell Ave Ste. H	Campbell	CA	95008	408 866-1945
Swimming Pool Repair Inc.	P.O. Box 1271	San Carlos	CA	94070	650 368-7946
5 Star Pool Plaster Inc.	1459 SteelCreek Dr.	Patterson	CA	95363	209 988-2440
Indigo Pools, Inc.	P.O. Box 361321	Milpitas	CA	95036	408 504 5577
The Pool Doctor	4038 San Pablo Dam Rd	El Sobrante	CA	94803	510 223-7537
Unique Pool and Spa Inc.	4802 Delores Dr.	Union City	CA	94587	650 722-1034
Serrano Pool & Plaster	100 Buck Ave	Vacaville	CA	95688	707 451-9231 650 697-7516
Bay Area Pools	1745 Adrian Rd	Burlingame	CA	94010	ext 7517

Master's Pools	P.O. BOX 6787	San Mateo	CA	94403	650 245-6440
Aqua Chem	P.O. BOX 25363	San Mateo	CA	94402	650 245-5884
Bob's Pool Repairs	335 Willow Ave	Hayward	CA	94541	650 342-3822
Rainbow Pools	2114 Xavier Court	Santa Clara	CA	95051	510 750-2866
American Leak Detection	P.O. Box 4238	San Rafael	CA	94913	408 836-3996
Aqua Blue Swimming Pools	765 N. Rengstroff	Mt. View	CA	94043	800 900-5325
Four Seasons Pool Service	37280 Filbert St	Newark	ca	94560	408 202-2131
Poseidon Pools Inc	3790 El Camino	Palo Alto	ca	94306	510-793-5189
Diamond Cut Plastering	7057 Turnberry Lane	Riverbank	CA	95367	650-464-4361
National Aquatic Services	P.O. Box 2168	Brentwood	CA	94513	800 550-0647
CNP Pools	436 Barmeson Ave	San Mateo	CA	94402	925 513-9025
Architect	904 Larch Ave	S. San Francisco	CA		650 892-9294
Spring Creek Pool & Spa	331 Pine Street	Ripon	CA		650 589-2512
Counsilmn Hunsaker	20725 Western Ave #134	Torrance	CA	95366	209 649-7045
Counsilmn Hunsaker	20725 Western Ave #134	Torrance	CA	90501	209 599-5502
Dau Products	3618 Glenwood Ave	Redwood City	CA	94062	310 327-1271
R.O.W. Custom Enterprises	5200 Faith Home Rd	Ceres	CA	95307	310 486-2081
Serenity Pools	573 Mountain View Ave	Belmont	CA	94002	209 537-6500
Sparkling Fresh Pools	1345 N. Red Gum #22	Anaheim	CA	92806	209 495-9955
Swimming Pool Perfections	P.O. Box 968	Redwood City	CA	94064	650 307-5646
Paradise Pools and Gardens	80 Gilman Ave #314	Campbell	CA	95008	949 500-0037
Kirby Pools	P.O. Box 4085	Burlingame	CA	94011	650 366-2029
Primo Pools	P.O. Box 364	Newark	CA	94560	408 370-4759
Paramount Pool Plaster	2314 American Ave	Hayward	CA		650 921-8288
Ratcliff	5826 Doyle St	Emeryville	CA	94545	510 797-7077
Skyline Pool	426 Willow Road	Menlo Park	CA	94608	510 582-2705
Cagwing & Norward	1565 S Novato Blvd, Suite B	Novato	CA	94025	510 385-2566
Landscape Contractors	P.O. Box 1600	Novato	CA	94948-1600	510 899-6445
Elite Pool Serv Inc	800 Anita Ave	Belmont	CA	94002	415 505-1173
					650 323-7946
					415 892-7710
					800 891-7710
					650 598-9699
					650 787-5095

Espinoza Pool & Spa	37048 Luarel St	Newark	CA	94560	510 552-5486 510 793-1124
Aquatic Quality Assurance	6062 Corte Del Cedro	Carlsbad	CA	92011	760 431-9131 760 431-5757
Aqua Pool Service	P.O. Box 952	Redwood City	CA	94064	650 465-0372
Ph Pool & Spa Inc	124 H Blossom Hill Rd #516	San Jose	CA	95123	408 225-4772 408 464-5945
Everclear Pool Services	3674 Slopeview Dr	San Jose	CA	95148	408 270-6026 408 569-3106
Blendy's Pool Service	1885 E. Bayshore Rd. #52	Palo Alto	CA	94303	650 400-0853
No Problem Pools	5669 Snell Ave	San Jose	CA	95123	408 202-1372
A-1 Pool Service	3126 Spring St.	Redwood City	CA		650 533-3990 650 365-3655

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

California Department of Public Health  
Compliance Form

OFFICE USE ONLY

Anti-Entrapment Devices and Systems  
for Public Pools and Spas

Health and Safety Code Sections 116064.1 and 116064.2

NOTE: Use one form for each pump or multiple pumps under the same drain cover.

ALL SECTIONS OF THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED.

This form is to be used to verify compliance with modifications pursuant to the new Health and Safety Code sections 116064.1 and 116064.2. Under Section 116064.2 (a) of the Health and Safety Code, effective January 1, 2010, the owner of a public swimming pool shall file this form within 30 days following the completion of construction or installation of anti-entrapment devices or systems in swimming pools. Contact your local Environmental Health Department and Building Department for any necessary plan approval and permits prior to construction or remodel.

**Site Information**

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pool Identification (if more than 1 pool/spa at site): \_\_\_\_\_  
Facility Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Owner's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owners Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Pool constructed on or after January 1, 2010?:  Yes  No

**Pump Information**

**Recirculation Pump** Make/Model \_\_\_\_\_ H.P. \_\_\_\_\_  
 **Other Pump:** Make/Model \_\_\_\_\_ H.P. \_\_\_\_\_  
 **Jet / Booster Pump** Make/Model \_\_\_\_\_ H.P. \_\_\_\_\_  
 **Feature Pump** Make/Model \_\_\_\_\_ H.P. \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Drain (Includes All Suction Outlets Except Skimmer Equalizer Lines)**

Manufacturer of approved drain cover: \_\_\_\_\_ Model Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Install date \_\_\_\_\_  
GPM rating: Floor \_\_\_\_\_ Wall \_\_\_\_\_ Installed on  Floor  Wall  
Manufacturer of approved drain cover: \_\_\_\_\_ Model Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Install date \_\_\_\_\_  
GPM rating: Floor \_\_\_\_\_ Wall \_\_\_\_\_ Installed on  Floor  Wall Main drain/Jet suction pipe size is \_\_\_\_\_ inches.

**Check One:**

- Split main drain(s) (Minimum 3 ft. between covers, hydraulically balanced and symmetrically plumbed)
- Single drain – Unblockable (size and shape that a human body cannot sufficiently block to create a suction entrapment)
- Single drain – Not unblockable (one of the following secondary devices required: safety vacuum release system, suction limiting vent system, gravity drainage system, auto pump shut-off system, or other equally or more effective system approved by enforcement agency)  
Type of secondary device installed: \_\_\_\_\_ Install date \_\_\_\_\_  
Manufacturer of approved device: \_\_\_\_\_ Model/Part Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Safety vacuum release system bears the following performance standard markings:  ATSM F2387  ASME/ANSI standard A 112.19.17

**Skimmer Equalizer Line(s)**

Manufacturer of approved suction fitting: \_\_\_\_\_ Model Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Install date \_\_\_\_\_  
GPM rating: GPM rating: Floor \_\_\_\_\_ Wall \_\_\_\_\_ Installed on  Floor  Wall  
Skimmer equalizer line(s) pipe size were found to be \_\_\_\_\_ inches Number of Skimmers: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE ABOVE HAS BEEN FIELD VERIFIED TO COMPLY WITH MANUFACTURER'S INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS BY THE INSTALLER**

I declare that I hold an active California State Contractor license # \_\_\_\_\_ with classification \_\_\_\_\_ or a California State Professional Engineer license # \_\_\_\_\_ with qualified experience working on public swimming pools and that the information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if I improperly certify this information, I shall be subject to potential disciplinary action at the discretion of the licensing authority in accordance with California Health & Safety Code Section 116064.2.

Contractor/Engineer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor/Engineer Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor/Engineer FAX Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor / Engineer name (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_ Contractor / Engineer name (SIGNATURE) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
For a complete text of the law, visit: [http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab\\_1001-1050/ab\\_1020\\_bill\\_20091011\\_chaptered.pdf](http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_1001-1050/ab_1020_bill_20091011_chaptered.pdf)

California Department of Public Health  
Compliance Form

Anti-Entrapment Devices and Systems  
for Public Pools and Spas

Health and Safety Code Sections 116064.1 and 116064.2

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE COMPLIANCE FORM**

- Use one form for each pump or multiple pumps under the same drain cover. For example, a spa with a recirculation pump and a jet pump each with their own set of split drains that terminate under a different drain cover will require two forms. However, two pumps with split drains that terminate under the same drain cover will require only one form.
- All sections of the form must be completed.
- Print legibly.
- Return the completed form to your local Environmental Health Department.

I. **Site Information**

- A. Facility name – name of facility or DBA (e.g. Oak Glen HOA, Palms Apartments).
- B. Pool Identification – description of the pool which will identify it when there is more than one pool on the property.
- C. Facility Address – address, city, state, and zip code of the facility where the pool or pools are located.
- D. Owner's name – owner, owner's representative, or corporation name.
- E. Owner's address – address, city, state, zip, and telephone number of the owner or owner's representative.
- F. Indicate if the pool was constructed on or after January 1, 2010.

II. **Pump Information**

- A. Identify the type of pump that is connected to the drain. If two pumps terminate under one set of split drains (e.g. one side of a split suction drain is used for both a recirculation pump and a jet pump), describe both pumps. For each pump, provide the make, model number, and horsepower. Remember, complete a separate compliance form if the additional pump is connected to a different drain cover.

III. **Main Drain (Includes All Suction Outlets Except Skimmer Equalizer Lines)**

- A. Provide the manufacturer; make and model; and the date the drain cover was installed.
- B. Provide the floor and wall flow rating in gallons per minute for the drain cover. Note: If there are two different drain covers (e.g. one on the wall and one on the floor), there is space on the compliance form to complete drain cover information for each drain.
- C. Indicate the size of the pipe terminating at the main drain or jet suction.
- D. Check a box to indicate the configuration of the drain.
  - 1. **Split Main Drains** - means there are two drains that are hydraulically balanced and symmetrically plumbed and are separated by a distance of at least three feet in any dimension between the suction outlets.
  - 2. **Single Drain - Unblockable** means there is one drain approved to be unblockable so that a human body cannot sufficiently block it to create a suction hazard.
  - 3. **Single Drain - Not Unblockable** - means there is a single drain which can be sufficiently blocked by a human body to create a suction hazard. This type of drain must be protected by an approved safety vacuum release system or other equally or more effective system. Provide the type of device installed, manufacturer, model, and indicate which type of performance standard is marked on the device (ASTM F2387 or ASME/ANSI standard A112.19.17).

IV. **Skimmer Equalizer Line(s)**

- A. Provide the manufacturer; make and model; and the date the drain cover was installed.
- B. Provide the floor and wall flow rating in gallons per minute for the drain cover. Note: If there are two different drain covers (e.g. one on the wall and one on the floor), there is space on the compliance form to complete drain cover information for each drain.
- C. Indicate the size of the skimmer equalizer line pipe.
- D. Indicate number of skimmers.

V. **Contractor/Engineer Certification Section**

- A. Enter a valid California State Contractor's license number.
- B. Enter the Contractor's license classification.
- C. Or enter the California State Professional Engineer's license number, if applicable.
- D. Enter the Contractor's- /- Engineer's name and the company they are working for.
- E. Enter the company address, city, state, zip code, telephone number, cell phone number, FAX number, and email for the Contractor- /- Engineer.
- F. Print the name of the Contractor/Engineer.
- G. The Contractor or Engineer must sign the form.
- H. Enter the date the form was signed.