



CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS

CONSUMER HEALTH DIVISION

MAINTAINING POOLS/SPAS WHILE WAITING FOR REPAIRS

KEEP POOLS/SPAS SECURED:

- In Texas, safe fences with self-closing, self-latching gates are required around pools/spas.
- Keep your fence and gates secure, locked, and posted as “No Trespassing” while waiting for pool repairs.
- Public pools must post a “Closed” sign. We also recommend posting a “Danger: Do Not Swim” sign.
- Install alarms on doors and windows that lead to pools/spas.
- Install keyless latches out of kids’ reach on doors that leads to pools/spas.
- If a child is missing, always check the water first, and call 911 if the bottom of the pool/spa cannot be seen.
- Keep emergency phones working and make sure that rescue equipment is available.

KEEP WATER CLEAR ENOUGH SO THAT DRAINS CAN BE EASILY SEEN:

- Water must be treated so that the drains and bottom of the pool can be easily seen.
- Aboveground pools/spas should be drained and left empty until equipment repairs could be made.
- In-ground pools/spas should not be left empty for long periods, because damage to the shell/plaster can occur.
- If water is already stagnant, start by draining, cleaning the inside of the pool/spa, & refilling with clean water.
- Treat the water using a shock containing a high availability of chlorine (like calcium hypochlorite). Here’s an example: <https://amzn.to/3rIT9M8>
- DO NOT treat the water using stabilized chlorine or chlorine products containing cyanuric acid. This includes stabilized tablets (trichlor) and dichlor powder (i.e. active ingredient on label will say sodium dichloro-s-triazetrione dehydrate).
- When adding chemicals, don’t dump them in one spot. Spread out the chemicals in different areas around the pool and use your net to stir the water so that you distribute the chemical throughout the water while your pump is off.
- Floating chlorine dispensers might help to keep some chlorine dispensing around the pool and spa at all times.
 - Note: most of these dispensers require the chlorine to be in tablet form, but most tablets are stabilized (with cyanuric acid). You do not want to use stabilized tablets! Make sure you buy chlorine tablets that are not stabilized, like these: <https://amzn.to/3cGT9Z5>
 - Here’s an example of a floating chlorine dispenser that can hold the type of tablets listed above: <https://amzn.to/2PRo4IQ>
- Brush the sides of the pool/spa daily and remove as much debris/leaves as you can.
- A minimum level of 1 ppm chlorine is necessary to keep mosquitoes from breeding.
- Maintain your pH levels at 7.2-7.8. Chlorine and acid products mixed together are extremely dangerous. Always read and follow label directions for adding chemicals. Use separate buckets/equipment for adding chlorine and for adding acid. Always add acid to water, never add water to acid.
- Use safe pool/spa covers, and keep them tightly sealed to avoid entry of mosquitoes.

KEEP POOLS/SPA REPAIRS SAFE:

- Check with NRH Building Inspections at 817-427-6300 or nrhpi@nrhtx.com to check current requirements and see if a building permit is necessary for repairs.
- Public aquatic facilities should also contact NRH Consumer Health at 817-427-6650 or consumerhealth@nrhtx.com before making any changes to equipment.
- Report stagnant pools in your neighborhood to NRH Code Compliance at 817-427-6663.

Questions About Pools or Mosquitoes? Contact NRH Consumer Health at 817-427-6650 or consumerhealth@nrhtx.com