

## **Calculating Maximum User Load for Texas Public Swimming Pools/Spas**

All public/semi-public swimming pools in Texas must comply with Title 25 of the Texas Administrative Code Chapter 265. These rules provide guidance for calculating the maximum number of users allowed in a commercial swimming pool or spa at any time (AKA maximum user load).

### **How to Calculate Maximum User Load**

- 1) Determine the Surface Area of the Swimming Pool/Spa, and the Surface Area of the Pool/Spa Deck**
- 2) Calculate the Surface Area for Shallow/Wading Areas and Divide by Number in Figure A**
  - a. "Shallow" is defined in the rules as areas where the depth of the water is five feet or less.
  - b. Measure the areas of the pool that are shallow and calculate the surface area in square feet for the shallow areas of the pool.
  - c. Divide this number you found in step "b" by 15, 12, 8, or 88.
    - i. You can determine which number you need to divide by with the help of Figure A on page 2 of this document. Use this figure and the information you collected in Step 1 to decide which number you need to divide by.
    - ii. For example, if the amount of deck area for your pool is equal to the total pool surface area, you would divide by "12".
  - d. Round your result down (for example, if the result is 2.6, the maximum number of persons allowed is 2 persons). Record the result as the maximum number of persons allowed in shallow areas of the pool.
- 3) Calculate the Surface Area for Deep Areas and Divide by Number in Figure A**
  - a. "Deep" is defined in the rules as areas where the depth of the water is more than five feet. This does not include diving areas.
  - b. If a pool/spa does not have a specific diving area, measure the areas of the pool that are deep and calculate the surface area in square feet for the deep areas of the pool.
  - c. Divide the number you found in step "b" by 20, 15, or 10.
    - i. You can determine which number you need to divide by with the help of Figure A on page 2 of this document. Use this figure and the information you collected in Step 1 to decide which number you need to divide by.
    - ii. For example, if the deck area for your pool is equal to the total pool surface area, you would divide by "15".
  - d. Round this number down (for example, if the result is 2.6, the maximum number of persons allowed is 2 persons). Record the result as the maximum number of persons allowed in deep areas of the pool.
- 4) Calculate the Surface Area for Diving Areas and Divide by Number in Figure A**
  - a. Measure the areas of the pool that are specifically identified as diving areas (i.e. diving envelope) and calculate the surface area in square feet for the diving areas of the pool.
  - b. Divide the number you found in step "a" by 300. Round this number down (for example, if the result is 2.6, the maximum number of persons allowed is 2 persons). Record the result as the maximum number of persons allowed in diving areas of the pool.
- 5) Add together the numbers you calculated in Steps 2, 3, and 4.** This will provide you with the maximum number of users allowed in the swimming pool/spa.

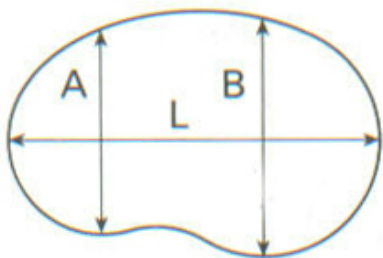
**Figure A: from Texas State Pool Code (Page 18, 25 TAC 265.184(o)(2))**

<b>Maximum Numbers of Users in Class A Pools Not Being Used for Competitive Events and Class B and Class C Pools and Spas.</b>			
Pool and Spa	Shallow or Wading Areas	Deep Area (Not Including the Diving Area)	Diving Area (Per Each Diving Board)
Pools with Minimum Deck Area	15 sq. ft. per user	20 sq. ft. per user	300 sq. ft.
Pools with Deck Area Equal to Water Surface Area	12 sq. ft. per user	15 sq. ft. per user	300 sq. ft.
Pools with Deck Area at Least Twice Water Surface Area	8 sq. ft. per user	10 sq. ft. per user	300 sq. ft.
Maximum Number of Users in Spas, Wade Pools, and Wade Pools with PIWFs	88 sq. ft. per user	NA	NA

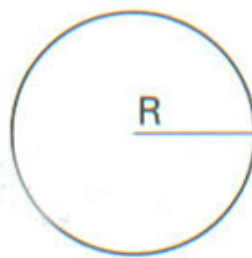
**Helpful Formulas:**

**Pool Sizing**

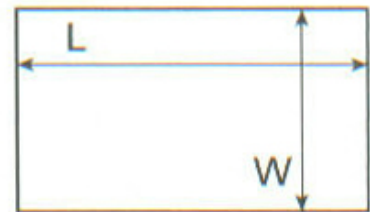
Determine your pool's surface area in square feet:



Area = (A+B) x L x .45



Area = R x R x 3.14



Area = L x W

**Where to Find the Codes:**

<https://dshs.texas.gov/poolspa/laws-rules.aspx>

Maximum User Load for Swimming Pools/Spas: 25 TAC 265.184(n) (Pages 17-18)

Requirement to Post Sign for Maximum User Load: 25 TAC 265.201(j)(5) (Page 63)