

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH - RECREATIONAL WATERS PROGRAM**

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**Recreational Waters Program Website  
[http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/EP/rw/rw\\_plans.htm](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/EP/rw/rw_plans.htm)**

**SWIMMING/SPA POOL  
PLAN APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS  
FOR RENOVATION / REPLASTERING / EQUIPMENT CHANGES**

## PLAN SUBMITTAL

- Any person proposing to renovate, replaster, reconstruct or alter, a public pool or its ancillary facilities, mechanical equipment or related piping, shall submit legible plans and specifications to the County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health for review and written approval prior to commencing the work and in advance of the issuance of any building, plumbing, or electrical permits. Anytime a pool is acid washed or drained for any reason the pool shall be reviewed to determine if needs to be upgraded to the current pool code as specified below.
- Persons making modifications to the pool shell or major modifications to the recirculation system should refer to plan approval requirements for new pools.
- At least two sets of plans are required. This Department will retain one copy of the plans. A plan approval fee is required. The fee will depend on the extent of the renovation.
- After the renovation is complete, at least one field inspection will be made to verify compliance with the plan approval.
- All equipment shall be installed per the manufacturer's written instructions.
- Pool plan approval does not authorize the violation of any law, ordinance, or regulation, and final approval is subject to field inspection and evaluation.
- Plan approvals are valid for a period of two years from the date of the stamp.

## SPECIFICATIONS

The following information is required for the plan approval:

1. Job Address - address, city, zip.
2. Name, mailing address and phone numbers of pool contractor and owner.
3. RENOVATIONS - If the pool is being renovated, replastered or drained for any reason provide:
  - a. A simple top view drawing showing the length and width of the pool.
  - b. Resurfacing material and color.
  - c. Depth marker depths and locations.
  - d. Show the location of the contrasting tile on the floor at the 4 ½ ft. water depth. (Pools with a maximum water depth of 5 feet or less do not require a tile line).
  - e. Ladder(s) at the deep end of the pool. (Pools with a maximum water depth of 4½ ft. or less are not required to have a ladder)
  - f. Show the handrail(s) over the stairs with the distance from each step tread and deck to the top of the handrail.
  - g. Coping detail if the pool coping is being replaced.
  - h. If there is an existing diving board, provide scaled top and side view dimensions of the pool.
4. EQUIPMENT CHANGE OR PLUMBING – If any equipment is being changed, provide:
  - a. Year the pool was built.
  - b. Volume of pool.
  - c. Make and model number of existing equipment and any new equipment that is being installed.  
(See approved pool equipment list)
  - d. Make and model of existing pump
  - e. Size of suction and return lines going and coming from the equipment room.
  - f. Plumbing material (PVC, copper etc.)
  - g. Any other information that pertains to the equipment installation.

## REQUIREMENTS

1. When a pool is renovated, certain items are required to be upgraded, depending on what changes are being made to the pool. At the end of each requirement below, in **bold**, it describes when the requirement applies.
2. All pool equipment shall be listed in the Los Angeles County Approved Pool Equipment List.
3. All swimming pools must be lined with white plaster or a smooth, waterproof, white interior finish, impervious to moisture and constructed of reinforced concrete or a material equivalent in strength and durability. If tile is used for the pool shell, the tile must be submitted to this Department for approval. There shall be no letters, marking or images of any kind other than safety markings on the pool shell. **Required when the pool is replastered or resurfaced.**
4. In pools greater than 5 ft. in depth, a straight line of slip-resistant tile of contrasting color must be installed where the water depth is 4½ ft. The tile must be at least 4 inches but not greater than 6 inches wide. **Required when the pool is replastered or resurfaced.**
5. Depth markers of contrasting color are required on both sides, at the minimum and maximum depths, at the break in slope and both ends of the pool. Markers must be permanent. Painted letters or stick-ons are not permitted. Depth markers must indicate the water depth, accurate to the nearest 6 inches as measured from the pool floor to the middle of the skimmer opening. The pool must be lined with ceramic waterline tiles around the entire perimeter of the pool. **Required when the pool is drained for any reason.**

Depth markers are required on the deck at all locations corresponding the wall markers. **Required when the deck is completely replaced. Not required if the deck is just coated.**

For pools with a maximum water depth of 6 ft. or less permanent no diving markers are required next to each of the deck depth markers. **Required when the deck is completely replaced. Not required when the deck is just coated.**

All depth markers must be marked with the letters "feet" or "ft." and "inches" or "in". **Required when the depth markers are replaced.**

Depth markers must be at least 4 inches in height. **Required when the depth markers are replaced.**

6. If contrasting tile is used along the edge of pool steps, it must be no greater than 4 inches wide and slip-resistant. **Required when the pool is replastered or resurfaced.**
7. A ladder as a second means of exit is required at the deep end of a pool having a water depth greater than 4½ ft. **Required when the pool drained for any reason.**
8. At least one hand rail is required for all stairs, except for a spa, two handrails are now required. The rail must be between 28 inches and 36 inches above the deck and above each step tread as measured from a flat portion of the deck and the edge of each step tread to the top of the handrail. The handrail must extend into the pool from the deck to the bottom step tread. There should be a minimum clearance of 3 inches between any handrail and step riser. (See handrail illustration at the end of the requirements). **Required when the pool is drained for any reason.**
9. All coping on pools must extend out into the pool at least one inch but not more than two inches. The coping must be at least 1 inches thick but no greater than 2½ inches thick. **Required when coping is replaced.**
10. Indoor/outdoor carpeting or similar products are not approved on the deck within four feet of a swimming or spa pool. Any deck material other than concrete must be approved by this Department. **Required when the deck is replaced.**

11. An influent pressure gauge placed before the filter but after the pump (usually found on top of the filter). An effluent pressure gauge is no longer required. **Required immediately.**
12. A vacuum gauge placed before the pump. **Required anytime a recirculation pump is replaced.**
13. A flowmeter must be installed on a horizontal straight run of pipe with a minimum of 10 pipe diameters before and 4 pipe diameters after the flowmeter. It should be positioned after the filter and before the heater. It may be installed after the heater, if a great enough distance can be maintained so that heated water will not damage the flowmeter. **Immediate requirement.**
14. An automatic chlorinator is required which is capable of supplying not less than the equivalent of 3 pounds of chlorine per day per 10,000 gallons pool water capacity. **Immediate requirement. For existing chlorinators sized at 2 lbs per 10,000 gallons per day, the 3 lb. per 10,000 gallons per day sizing is required whenever the chlorinator is replaced.**
15. No direct connection of a pool or its recirculating system shall be permitted with a sanitary sewer, storm drain or deck drain system. A sight glass is required when needed for observation of backwash water. **Immediate requirement.**
16. Each hose bibb at the site must be protected by an approved backflow device. **Immediate requirement.**
17. A life ring with rope attached is required (spas and wading pools exempt). **Immediate requirement.**
18. The rope must be as long as the, maximum width of the pool (spas, wading pools exempt). **Immediate requirement.**
19. **REQUIRED SIGNS.** All signs shall have clearly legible letters or numbers not less than 4 inches high, unless otherwise noted, fixed to a wall, pole, gate or similar permanent structure in a location visible to all pool users.
  1. **POOL CAPACITY SIGN** - A sign shall indicate the maximum number of pool users permitted for each pool. [In letters and numbers not less than 4 inches high]. The pool user capacity of a spa pool shall be based on one pool user for every 10 square feet of pool water surface area. The pool user capacity for all other pools shall be based on one pool user for every 20 square feet of pool water surface area. Pool user capacity requirements do not apply to wading pools or spray grounds
  2. **NO DIVING SIGN.** Signs shall be posted in conspicuous places and shall state, "NO DIVING" at pools with a maximum water depth of 6 feet or less. [In letters not less than 4 inches high].
  3. **NO LIFEGUARD SIGN** - Where no lifeguard service is provided, a sign shall be posted stating, "NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY." [In letters not less than 4 inches high].  
The sign also shall state [in letters not less than 1 inch high], "Children Under the Age of 14 Shall Not Use Pool Without A Parent or Adult Guardian In Attendance."
  4. **ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION AND CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION SIGN** - An illustrated diagram with text [not less than 1/4 inch high] of artificial respiration and CPR procedures shall be posted.
  5. **EMERGENCY SIGN** - The emergency telephone number 911, the number of the nearest emergency services and the name and street address of the pool facility shall be posted. [In letters and numbers not less than 1 inch high].
  6. **SPA WARNING SIGN** - A warning sign for spa pools shall be posted stating, "CAUTION" and shall include the following language [in letters not less than 1 inch high]:
    - a. Elderly persons, pregnant women, infants and those with health conditions requiring medical care should consult with a physician before entering the spa.
    - b. Unsupervised use by children under the age of 14 is prohibited.
    - c. Hot water immersion while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, drugs or medicines may lead to serious consequences and is not recommended.
    - d. Do not use alone.
    - e. Long exposure may result in hyperthermia, nausea, dizziness or fainting.

7. EMERGENCY SHUT-OFF SWITCH SIGN – [In letters not less than 1 inch high], a sign shall be posted at the spa emergency shut off switch stating, “EMERGENCY SHUT-OFF SWITCH.”
8. KEEP CLOSED SIGN - A sign shall be posted on the exterior side of gates and doors leading into the pool enclosure area stating, “KEEP CLOSED” [In letters not less than 4 inches high].
9. DIARRHEA NOTICE SIGN - A sign [in letters not less than 1 inch high] and in a language or diagram that is clearly stated shall be posted at the entrance area of a public pool which states that persons having currently active diarrhea or who have had active diarrhea within the previous 14 days shall not be allowed to enter the pool water. This sign should be posted with all the other safety signs.

**Immediate requirement for all signs.**

20. When changes are being made to the plumbing most plumbing code requirements are not retroactive. For example, there will not be a requirement to add an extra skimmer or increase pipe size. If the pool is being completely replumbed, the plans will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for specific requirements.
21. All pools should already be in compliance with Title 24, Section 3162 of the California Building Code (Virginia Graeme Baker Safety Act).  
  
All suction drains on public pools must be split or have a safety vacuum release system or automatic pump shut-off system. All drain covers must be correctly sized and listed on the Los Angeles County Approved Equipment List. For details, refer to requirements for a new pool or a copy of the latest pool code. **Immediate requirement.**
22. All pool lights must be protected by a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter. **Immediate requirement.**
23. All pools with diving boards will be evaluated during any plan check to assure it meets current pool code requirements. **Immediate requirement.**
24. The direction of flow for the recirculation equipment shall be labeled clearly with directional symbols such as arrows on all piping in the equipment area. Where the recirculation equipment for more than one pool is located on site, the equipment shall be marked as to which pool the system serves. Valves and plumbing lines shall be labeled clearly with the source or destination descriptions.
25. If an existing diving board is moved, it will have to comply with the old 1982 pool code requirements. If a new diving board is added, it will have to comply with the new 2012 pool code.

For more information, visit our web site at [http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/EP/rw/rw\\_plans.htm](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/EP/rw/rw_plans.htm)





# APPROVED HANDRAIL CONFIGURATION

