



The Central Connecticut Health District is the local health department serving the towns of Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. The District formed in June 1996 with the Towns of Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. Berlin joined the District in June 1998 and Newington is the newest member town effective July 1, 2006. The District is overseen by an eleven member Board of Health and functions as an independent entity of government. Our main office is located in the Wethersfield Town Hall with satellite offices in Berlin, Newington and Rocky Hill. Each satellite office is staffed by a Sanitarian.



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Backyard Swimming Pool Operation and Safety



POOL SAFETY 



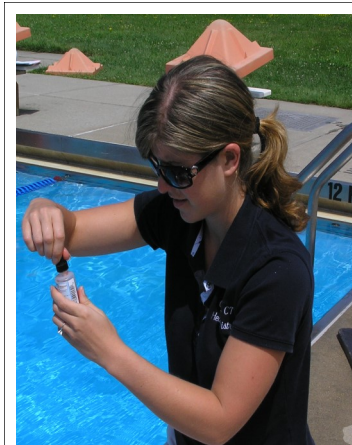
Central Connecticut Health District

Tel: (860) 785-8380

Backyard Swimming Pool Operation and Safety

During the summer months, the Central Connecticut Health District routinely inspects the town-owned swimming pools and those at motels, apartments, health clubs, and condominium complexes, for compliance with State Public Health Code regulations.

In the interest of promoting good health and safety practices at backyard pools as well, the Central Connecticut Health District offers the following information for homeowners to assist them in the safe operation of their pools.



Registered Sanitarian Rebecca Drew performing pool water tests at a town owned swimming pool

The following is a list of recommended safety and operation practices

1.) State Building Code requires all pools having a water depth exceeding twenty (20) inches to be completely surrounded by a fence or wall not less than four (4) feet in height. The fencing should be constructed so as to not have any holes or gaps larger than four (4) inches

2.) This same code requires that all gates in such fencing be self-closing and equipped with a self-latching device to prevent the gate from being accidentally left open while the pool is unattended. The latch must be located a minimum of four (4) feet above the ground to prevent toddlers from gaining access to an unattended pool. Fifty percent (50%) of all accidental drowning occur in backyard pools.

3.) The Connecticut Building Code also requires a Building Permit to be obtained (at the Building Department in Town Hall) for the installation of any above-ground pool with 250 sq. ft. or more of surface area, or more than 24" in depth, as well as for any in-ground pool.

4.) A water testing kit should be available for determining the chlorine residual and pH level in the pool water. Test chemicals should be replaced yearly to insure accurate readings. Chlorine is added to the pool to kill bacteria introduced into the water by bathers as well as to prevent the growth of algae. Testing should be done at least once a day to insure that a chlorine residual of at least 1.0ppm is always present when the pool is available for use. The chlorine residual should always be maintained between 1.0-3.0 ppm when the pool is being used. The pH level should be kept between 7.2-7.8 for maximum bather eye comfort and for effective chlorine disinfection.



Swimming Pool Test Kit

5.) Dry chlorine, in tablet or granular form, should be kept in the original container, tightly covered, and stored in a cool, dry place out of the reach of small children. If dry chlorine is to be pre-mixed with water in containers prior to its introduction into the pool, always use a clean, dry scoop and pour the chlorine into the water; never pour the water into the chlorine.

6.) Filter systems are used to remove suspended debris in the water and to keep the water clear and sparkling. Cloudy water usually indicates a problem with the filtration system (filter needs back-washing, or the filter pump is not being run for long enough periods). Filters are usually of two types; sand, or diatomaceous earth (DE). After each backwashing, DE filters must be pre-coated with new DE (use the equivalent of a one-pound coffee can of DE for each 5 square feet of filter area). Backwash-water from filter systems is considered sewage and must be disposed of in a sanitary manner so as not to create a nuisance.

7.) To avoid dangerous shocks, never allow small electrical appliances (hair dryers, radios, etc.) to be brought near the pool. Underwater lights and the pool water filtration system must be protected with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) installed at the outlet supplying the power to the pool's electrical equipment. A separate Electrical Permit (also obtained from our Building Department at Town Hall) is required for pool wiring connections.

8.) To avoid possible head and neck injuries, diving boards and slides should not be installed in residential pools, which were not designed and built to accommodate them. Parents should not allow children to dive into any above-ground pool due to the shallow water depth.

9.) During the summer months, unused backyard pools containing green, stagnant water offer an excellent breeding site for mosquitoes. Such pools must be kept covered or drained to eliminate all stagnant water. This is especially important now as the West Nile Virus mosquito can breed in such standing water.



10.) If you own a whirlpool (spa), maintain chlorine and pH levels the same as for a pool. The water temperature should never go above 104°F. Persons suffering from heart disease, diabetes, and high or low blood pressure, should consult with their doctor before using a whirlpool. A recommended length of

stay in the whirlpool is 10-15 minutes. Longer exposures may result in nausea, dizziness, or fainting.

Any resident having a question or problem with the operation of their swimming pool can call the Central Connecticut Health District at 785-8380 for assistance.

