

We can prevent loss of life

Every year hundreds of children drown in pools. They may drown because of a temporary lapse in supervision. Or they may be lost in a murky pool with good supervision that appears safe. A life guard or person outside the pool needs to be able to see under water. When children drown, they slip silently under the water. They don't scream, holler or raise a ruckus like in the movies.



Pool operators make sure to routinely check the pool for water clarity. In Washington State, a regulated pool facility **must be closed** when the pool bottom and sidewalls cannot be clearly seen. Comply with the law and close the pool until all bathers can be clearly seen.

 **Close the pool if you cannot clearly see the bottom.**

 **Prevent accidents by monitoring water clarity in your pool.**



Using a disc can reduce your risk

Do you have a disc like this? Every pool manager should have a plastic disc to help check pool clarity.

When? Check several times a day, especially when there are many people in the pool.

How? Attach the disc to a piece of fishing or weighted line long enough to give you at least **15 feet of water** to look through measuring from the deck to the bottom of the pool.

 Throw disc into deepest part of the pool

- If you can clearly see the disc, pool clarity is good
- If you can barely see the disc, pool clarity is a problem and you must take corrective action
- **If you can't see the disc, close the pool!**

Learn more about how you can prevent drowning, on the web at: www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/waterrec

For persons with disabilities, this document is available in other formats upon request at:
1(888)586-9427 (TTY/TDD 1(800) 833-6388)
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Washington State Department of
Health
Environmental Health Division

PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

Warning!

Kids



Disappear

Disappear
Disappear
Disappear
Disappear

When the water's not clear

Water Safety Warning for
Pool Operators

Safety in the Pool

A pool manager is responsible for the health and safety conditions at the pool. A safe pool has proper water quality and good water clarity. If it is difficult to see the pool bottom take action right away! **Immediately** close the pool if you cannot see the bottom.

If you cannot see the bottom you will not be able to see a person either. Don't let anyone suffer a terrible loss. You must be able to see and give aid to every area of the pool during open hours. Every year swimmers quietly drown and are lost because of poor visibility in the water. Clarity can also help you see that the main drain covers are in place and intact to reduce the risk of swimmer entrapment.



Check water clarity often



Allow swimming only in clear water

Common causes of murky and cloudy water, and practical solutions:

- 1. Swimmer Overload**
Heavy use creates loading on the treatment system. Require bathers to take a cleansing shower before using pool.
- 2. Contamination**
Keep pool and deck clear of debris and dirt. Remove visible debris daily. Routinely brush sides of pool and vacuum pool often.
- 3. Filtration**
Ensure filter is fully operational and filter media is properly maintained. Backwash as needed.
- 4. Poor Recirculation**
Ensure pump and flow meter are functioning and turnover rate is met.
- 5. Incorrect Chemical Levels**
Ensure proper disinfectant levels are maintained. If pool is cloudy, check that high alkalinity is not contributing to the problem.