

Procedures - Pools Contaminated with Fecal/Vomit

The following are recommended procedures to follow for cleaning and disinfecting of a swimming pool contaminated with fecal material or vomit.

Procedure A can be used for swimming pools contaminated with normal formed stools. Procedure B can be used for swimming pools contaminated with diarrhoea or vomit. These symptoms usually mean that the patron is suffering from a communicable disease, therefore procedure B is more severe.

Procedure A – Swimming pools contaminated with fecal matter – normal formed stools

Step 1 – When fecal matter is noticed in the pool, immediately evacuate everyone from the pool.

Step 2 – Remove the fecal matter from the pool by using a scooping device and dispose of the stool in a toilet. Clean and disinfect the scooping device.

Step 3 – Superchlorinate the contaminated area of the pool to at least 10 ppm free available chlorine for a minimum of 15 minutes.

Step 4 – Reduce the free available chlorine of the pool water to 0.5-3.00 ppm prior to permitting patrons back into the pool.

Procedure B – Swimming pools contaminated with diarrhoea or vomit

Step 1 - When diarrhoea or vomit is noticed in the pool, immediately evacuate everyone from the pool.

Step 2 – If possible, identify the person responsible and request that they immediately go to their doctor. Ask for their name and telephone number.

Step 3 – Shut off the recirculation pump and other chemical feeders.

Step 4 – Remove vomit and any visible diarrhoea with a scooping device and dispose of the material in a toilet. Clean and disinfect the scooping device.

Step 5 – Vacuum to waste any remaining diarrhoea or vomit.

Step 6 - Superchlorinate the contaminated area of the pool to a minimum concentration of 50 ppm for two and a half hours OR to a minimum concentration of 80 ppm for one and a half hours.

Step 7 – Turn on the recirculation equipment and chemical feeders.

Step 8 – Reduce the free available chlorine of the pool water to 0.5-3.00 ppm prior to permitting patrons back into the pool.

For more information, please call a Public Health Inspector at 625-5930 or 1-888-294-6630, ext. 5930