



**COUNTY OF SONOMA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION**

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SPA PLAN CHECK GUIDELINES

Excerpts from the *California Health & Safety Code*, *California Code of Regulations (Title 22 and Title 24)*, *California Building Code*, and *California Electrical Code* require any person proposing to construct, remodel or alter a public swimming pool or auxiliary structure or equipment, to submit plans and specifications to the Health Department. Plans must be approved before any construction begins. Once plans have been approved, any changes must be submitted to this Division for review.

Please read this carefully and complete all sections that apply. Pre-gunite, pre-plaster and final opening inspections are required before opening for use or issuance of a public pool permit.

The following information is required:

Submit three (3) sets of plans and one (1) set of spa equipment specification sheets.

Spa plans shall be drawn to scale (minimum 1 inch = 1 foot) in a professional manner and include the following:

1. Name, address and telephone number of owner, general contractor, architect, and pool company or pool builder.
2. Address of spa to be constructed.
3. Scaled plot plan showing spa location in relationship to all buildings on property. Smaller scale acceptable on plot plan only.
4. Floor drains required in each restroom.
5. All calculations must be shown on the "Pool/Spa Data Sheet," or on the plan.
6. Detailed decking, fencing, gate, deck lighting, and ancillary facility plans are required before plan will be accepted for approval. ("By others" and "per code" are not acceptable.)
7. Floor plan of equipment room or area (drawn to scale).
8. Floor plan (when applicable) of restroom facilities to be used by bathers.
9. Location of drinking fountain in the spa/pool area (when applicable).

Restroom Facility Requirements - (When applicable)

1. Separate restrooms for both men and women. (Check with local building department regarding handicap requirements.)
2. Provisions for privacy.
3. Smooth, moisture resistant wall finishes throughout.
4. Floor drains are required in each restroom.
5. Floor must be non-skid, slip resistant, and extend upward on to wall at least 5" with an integrally coved base and shall slope to floor drains ($\frac{1}{4}$ " per foot).
6. Shower and lavatories shall be provided with hot and cold water (110 degrees F. maximum temperature).

7. Hand lavatory with single-service soap and towel dispensers, hot and cold water.
8. Carpet is not allowed in toilet or shower rooms.

Profile View - Cross section through the center of the spa and spa steps must indicate the following data:

1. Overall dimension. Depth cannot exceed 4'.
2. Height of step risers and width of treads.
3. Water depth at bench.
4. Design and location of handrail(s). Include handrail profile (upper rail must be at least 28 inches above deck coping and steps). Note: 2 handrails are required if the riser height of the steps is greater than 9 inches.
5. Interior spa finish color may be white or other pastel color. Fiberglass or acrylic spas may be white or approved pastel.

Top View - must indicate the following data:

1. Fill line location and size (it is recommended, but not required, that the fill-line be permanently installed).
2. Show location, size and distance of all spa plumbing including, skimmer(s) with equalizer line(s), suction lines, return lines, main drain line(s), and jet/aeration lines.
3. Spa light location(s) and wattage, when required, with ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection.
4. Location of equipment room or area, piping line size, and required equipment location in relation to spa location.
5. 1/2" = 1 foot scale drawing of spa equipment room.
6. Location of handrail(s) and steps.
7. Gate or ball valves for skimmer line(s) and main drain line(s) at recirculation system pump manifold.

Equipment Specifications - (sized for 30-minute turnover rate):

1. Filter type, make, model number and square footage.
2. Recirculation system pump and booster pump(s) make, model number and horsepower. Include pump performance curve from manufacturer.
3. Skimmer make and model number with equalizer line(s) and gate valve. Note: Equalizer line should be plumbed into dual main drain pots or be split symmetrically off a tee with the ports a minimum of 3 feet apart.
4. Chlorinator or equivalent disinfectant feeder make and model number.
5. Flowmeter make, model number and location on piping.
6. Influent and effluent pressure gauges.
7. Specify method of backwash discharge from filter. If to sanitary sewer, include size and slope of sewer line and sump size (minimum 18" x 18" x 18").
8. Approved backflow prevention device on fresh water fill line at supply valve.
9. Equipment room floors must be concrete and sloped to drainage.
10. All equipment shall be easily accessible for inspection and maintenance.
11. Provide hose bib equipped with backflow prevention device in equipment room.

Supporting Data - (Indicate or list the following data)

1. Spa capacity in total gallons.
2. Square footage of spa water surface area (cannot exceed 250 square feet or spa is considered a pool).
3. Dimensions of spa: length, width and depth (Note: Depth cannot exceed 4 feet).
4. Pipe size of return lines and suction lines, also type of piping to be used (copper, PVC, etc.).
5. Four (4) feet of paved and unobstructed non-skid decking shall extend around a minimum contiguous 50% of the spa (to include the side with the spa steps) sloped away from the spa at ¼ inch per foot to deck drains or other approved drainage (e.g., landscaped planter areas). No planted areas are allowed within 4 feet of the spa. The distance between any pool and spa must be at least 6 feet.
6. Three-inch minimum height depth markers on two sides at or above water level. Depth markers must have "ft" printed on them.
7. Location of hosebib(s) in the spa area for washing of deck area (approved backflow prevention device required).
8. Main drain grates must be anti-vortex type and screw-down type. Recirculation system and booster system main drains must be split into dual drains that are symmetrically plumbed off a tee fitting and spaced a minimum of three feet apart.

Safety Equipment

1. Sign stating, "WARNING - NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY" (minimum 4-inch letters).
2. Artificial respiration demonstration sign.
3. Emergency telephone numbers sign (9-1-1).
4. Sign stating, "NO DIVING ALLOWED" (minimum 4-inch letters).
5. Adequate spa and deck lighting is required, if spa is used after dark. If spa is not equipped with lighting, a sign stating, "NO USE OF POOL ALLOWED AFTER DARK" shall be posted (minimum 4-inch letters).
6. Occupancy load sign (minimum 4-inch letters). Spa occupancy is based on one bather per 10 square feet of spa water surface area.
7. A precaution sign for a spa with clearly legible letters shall be posted in a prominent place near the entrance to a spa which shall contain the following language:

CAUTION

1. Elderly persons, pregnant women, infants and those with health conditions requiring medical care should consult with a physician before entering a spa.
2. Unsupervised use by children under the age of 14 is prohibited.
3. Hot water immersion while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, drugs or medicines may lead to serious consequences and is not recommended.
4. Do not use alone.
5. Long exposure may result in nausea, dizziness, or fainting.

Additional Requirements

1. Step treads must be a minimum of 12" wide. Top curved steps must be at least 18" wide.
2. A minimum 5-foot high fence must enclose all public pools/spas. Fence openings cannot exceed 4" and the bottom of the fence must be no greater than 2" above finished grade. Gates must be self-closing and self-latching with the latch located at least 3½ feet above the walkway or deck (more stringent building department fence requirements will be acceptable).
3. The spa must be on a separate filter system from any pool and must be designed for a 30-minute turnover rate.
4. The spa bench and steps must be edged with dark-colored contrasting, slip-resistant tile.
5. The booster and circulation systems must be independent of each other and not be interconnected in any manner. Place the recirculation system on a separate time clock capable of operating on a 24-hour basis. The booster system switch is for a limited period with patron control operation.
6. One clearly labeled emergency shut-off switch for control of both the recirculation system and booster jets shall be installed adjacent to the spa.
7. The water depth over the bench must not exceed 24 inches.
8. An approved test kit for measuring levels of free chlorine (DPD type), pH and cyanuric acid (when used).
9. Maximum spa water temperature allowed is 104 degrees F. (40 degrees C.)
10. Equalizer line(s) ports must be covered with an anti-vortex and anti-hair entrapment cover, or the equalizer line may be split to the two main drains.

Note: Refer to Pool/Spa Data Sheet