



Iowa Department of Public Health

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Iowa Swimming Pool and Spa Rules

Guidance on Re-registering a Pool or Spa after an Extended Closure

An extended closure would be a closure period exceeding a seasonal closure, or during periods of normal maintenance or repair. Recently, the department has received requests from facilities wishing to reopen their pool or spa after a lapse in registration. Typically these facilities have voluntarily closed due to deferred maintenance, equipment failures, or a change in ownership. In some cases, the registration has been revoked due to ongoing operational issues with the pool or spa. Often, due to changes in staff or ownership, current staff may be unaware of the scope of work necessary to reopen the facility. Once there is a lapse in registration, upon re-registering, every pool and spa must meet the current requirements for disinfection and pH control, which includes the installation of an automatic controller for maintenance of the disinfection level and pH of the swimming pool water.

If a facility's registration has lapsed, the department will use the following process:

1. If it is unclear what work has been completed since the facility was last registered, the department may complete an inspection, or the department may ask the facility and/or the local inspection agency to provide pictures of the current equipment and pool area to help identify any changes to the facility.
2. If there have been any changes from the original approved drawings on file with the department, the facility will be required to update the applicable systems to comply with current rules.
3. Any changes (reconstruction) to the facility will require a construction permit, per IAC 641-15.5(1). Reconstruction includes the replacement or modification of the pool or spa shell or deck, recirculation system, a perimeter overflow gutter or skimmer, or a bathhouse associated with a pool or spa. The construction permit application must be accompanied by the permit fee and plans sealed by an engineer or architect. The construction permit application can be found here: [Construction Permit Application](#).
4. The department will conduct an inspection before registration is issued to confirm compliance with rules.

For additional information, please contact John Kelly at 515-724-9961 or Mindy Uhle at 515-242-6131.