



Maryland Department of Health  
Pool and Spa Solid Stool Fecal Contamination Procedure

Procedure for Solid Stool Fecal Cleanup and Disinfection at a Public, Semi-Public, or Limited Public-Use Pool and Public Spa

1. All bathers must be instructed to exit the pool water and the pool must be closed.
2. Signs must be posted stating that the pool is temporarily closed.
3. Scoop and remove as much fecal matter as possible from the pool and dispose of in a sanitary sewer, toilet, or other approved waste disposal system. Disinfect the scoop in bleach and water. Do not collect the fecal waste in the filters.
4. Clean up as much remaining fecal matter as possible using the vacuum system, but only if you can vacuum directly to a sanitary sewer waste line or other line approved waste disposal system. Do not collect the fecal waste in the filters. Clean and disinfect the vacuum equipment after use.
5. Keep the filters running through the following procedures.
6. Add disinfectant directly to the water starting at the accident area and continuing all around the pool or spa edge. The free chlorine level must be raised to at least 10 parts per million (PPM) in the entire pool or spa. Keep the filters running.
7. Maintain the pH between 7.2 and 7.5 to allow the disinfectant to work properly.
8. After 30 minutes take chlorine and pH readings every 15 feet around the water's edge. You must verify that the free chlorine level is a minimum of 10 PPM and the pH is between 7.2 and 7.5 throughout the entire pool. You may check the chlorine using a FAS/DPD kit, approved test strips, or dilutions to get accurate chlorine readings. Be careful with the pH measurements since the chlorine might bleach the pH color. (Add a few drops of sodium thiosulfate to the pH test.)
9. Once you have verified even distribution (10PPM) of chlorine in the water, backwash the filter to remove any remaining fecal matter then disinfect the filter media using 1 part of bleach to 20 parts water. Restart the filters.
10. Reduce the chlorine level to between 1.5 PPM and 10 PPM for a pool or between 3.0 PPM and 10 PPM for wading pool or between 4.0 PPM and 10 PPM for a spa. Check and re-balance the water chemistry.
11. Document the pool closure and record all readings in the daily operating records.
12. Reopen the pool.

NOTE: For spas and wading pools you may drain the water to waste and scrub the pool or spa with disinfectant. The piping and filter still need to be disinfected using a mixture of 1 part bleach to 20 parts water.

\*This policy is based on a CT formula to kill the majority of organisms associated with fecal contamination of pool water, where C is the concentration in mg/L of the disinfectant and T is the time in minutes of exposure.