



SWIMMING POOL SERVICE TECHNICIAN NEWSLETTER

Los Angeles County - Department of Public Health - Environmental Health - Recreational Waters Program

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http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/ep_rw_tenewslet.pdf

MAKE YOUR PAYMENT BY THE DUE DATE

This is a reminder that the Swimming Pool Service Technician Program is billed through the same automatic billing system as all other permitted facilities. As a result, the Tech Database is frozen in May and June to prepare for the new billings. During that time period, the Technician List cannot be updated with address or telephone number changes and new or replacement wallet cards cannot be printed. The bills will be sent out in May and will be due on June 30 to coincide with the expiration date printed on your wallet card. Please keep this in mind and pay your fees before the delinquent date. Techs paying their fees after the delinquent date will be assessed a late payment penalty of no less than \$50.00. Also be aware that there may be additional penalties. Please see the applicable excerpt of Los Angeles County Code Title 8 below.

- **8.04.840 - Public health license and permit—Penalty for late fee payment.**

If any fee required by Division 1 of this title is not paid prior to the delinquency date, in addition to such fee, the licensee or permittee shall pay a penalty equal to 25 percent of the fee or \$50.00, whichever is greater, plus an additional amount equal to one and one-half percent of the license or permit fee owed for each month the fee plus penalties remain delinquent, commencing the first day of the first calendar month that begins at least 60 days after the delinquency date.

(Ord. 96-0069 § 47, 1996; Ord. 88-0106 § 19, 1988; Ord. 12301 § 1 (part), 1981; Ord. 9803 § 1 (part), 1969; Ord. 8875 § 1, 1965; Ord. 8609 Art. 1 § 19, 1964.)

Anyone requesting a waiver of the late penalty must provide documentation to support their request. Requests for waivers will be denied if payment was delayed because the technician has

failed to notify Recreational Waters Program of address changes or other necessary changes.

Online payments may be made with an appropriate credit card, debit card or by echeck at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/>

UPDATE ON APPRENTICE LEGISLATION

Previous newsletters have advised that the Technician Apprentice certification might be discontinued. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is expected to announce a decision on this legislative change to the LA County Code, Title 11 by June 2018. It is anticipated that the legislative change will be approved and the Technician Apprentice Certification will be phased out over a two year period. After that, only Certified Swimming Pool Service Technicians may service pools in Los Angeles County. Trainees may accompany the Certified Technician to learn and gain experience in the field but cannot work without the physical presence of their supervisor. Any Certified Technician that allows his/her non-certified employees to service swimming pools without adequate supervision may have their certification suspended and subject to revocation. The Supervisor's decision will be posted on the on-line version of Pool News.

FOCUS ON THE LAW

Los Angeles County Code Title 11 establishes the Certified Swimming Pool Service Technician program. Anyone who services pools as a business or occupation in Los Angeles County must be certified by the Department of Public Health. Even private pools at single family residences must be serviced by a certified technician. An exception in the law does allow the

homeowner to maintain his/her own pool. The applicable law follows:

11.34.040

Swimming pool service technician—Activities authorized following certification.

A person certified pursuant to this chapter as a swimming pool service technician may engage in the occupation or business of treating or disinfecting swimming pool waters or cleaning, servicing, or maintaining swimming pools or facilities and appurtenances thereof.

(Ord. 91-0099 § 10, 1991: Ord. 8588 § 1 (part), 1964: Ord. 7583 Part 3 Ch. 13 § 1008, 1959.)

This chapter does not apply to an individual who maintains his or her own swimming pool or a manager or owner of a residential structure of three units or less who maintains or services the pool or pools exclusively at said structure.

(Ord. 2006-0040 § 100, 2006: Ord. 91-0099 § 2, 1991: Ord. 8588 § 1 (part), 1964: Ord. 7583 Part 3 Ch. 14 §§ 1001 and 1002, 1959.)

THE FACTS ABOUT SWIM DIAPERS

As a Certified Swimming Pool Service Technician, you are aware that human feces in a pool is a public health hazard. Cryptosporidium is a parasite that induces diarrhea in its host and is the primary cause of Recreational Water Illness (RWI) in pools. This organism is introduced into pool water via human feces and is swallowed by its next host. So, do swim diapers stop this parasite from entering the swimming pool? Don't bet your health on it! Swim diapers are manufactured to be non-absorbent. Otherwise they would absorb pool water and swell causing gaps around the child's legs. So if swim diapers don't hold urine, do they hold feces? The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has concluded that swim diapers may hold solid feces but don't completely contain diarrhea. To be safe, children and adults should stay out of the water if they currently have diarrhea or have had it within the previous two weeks. Parents should be encouraged to take their children to the bathroom frequently and everyone should wash their hands thoroughly after using the toilet. Changing diapers on the deck, near the pool should be discouraged.

If you are unaware that the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, has different requirements for treating pool water following a diarrheal or loose stool incident versus a formed stool incident (and other bodily fluids), or just wish to review the law on this important topic, please review the Pool

Code, page 31 on our Environmental Health webpage.

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/ep_rw_PCB.pdf

RECREATIONAL WATER ILLNESSES (RWI)

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has published a list of the top 10 causes of RWI. Clicking on the each of the causes will send the user to the CDC webpage to learn more about the subject including prevention measures. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/index.html>

1. [Cryptosporidium](#)
2. [Pseudomonas](#)
3. [Shigella](#)
4. [Legionella](#)
5. [Norovirus](#)
6. [E. coli](#)
7. [Giardia](#)
8. Disinfection agents & their byproducts ([chlorine](#), [bromine](#), [hydrochloric acid](#))
9. [Avian schistosomes](#)
10. [Leptospira](#)

RACCOON FECES IN YOUR POOL?

Recreational Waters has received several inquiries about raccoon feces in pools recently. The CDC has a link on it's webpage to inform the public about diseases that can be contracted from raccoon feces and disinfection of affected pools. Please be aware and inform your clients that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health **doesn't** test raccoon feces for *Baylisascaris*. Pool owners should contact a commercial laboratory for testing.

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/residential/animals/index.html>

CONTACT INFORMATION

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