



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY ♦ DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
Bureau of Environmental Protection  
Recreational Health Program  
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## **Wading Pool Main Drain Retrofit - Senate Bill 873**

In recent years, there have been a number of accidental entrapments and disembowelments associated with the main drains of wading pools. In an effort to prevent future accidents of this kind, Senate Bill 873 was passed, amending the California Health and Safety Code to include Section 116064 which requires the following:

- Wading pools shall have at least 2 hydraulically balanced circulation drains per pump and be symmetrically plumbed through one or more "T" fittings. The drains shall be separated by at least 3 feet in any direction.
- Wading pool main drains that are less than 12 inches across shall be covered with anti-vortex grates or similar protective devices and secured to the drains so that they cannot be removed except with the use of tools. Slots or openings in the grates or anti-vortex covers shall be so designed as to prevent physical entrapment that may pose any suction hazard to pool users.
- The maximum water velocity in the pump suction hydraulic system shall not exceed 6 feet per second when 100 percent of the pump's flow passes through the main drain outlets. This velocity cannot be exceeded even if one of the outlets is completely blocked. The law also requires the following:
  - On or after January 1, 1998 all newly constructed public wading pools shall be constructed in compliance with the new requirements.
  - Commencing January 1, 1998, whenever a construction permit is issued for an alteration of an existing public wading pool, it shall be retrofitted so as to be in compliance with the new requirements.
  - By January 1, 2000, every public wading pool, regardless of the date of original construction shall be retrofitted to comply with the new requirements.

This Department is responsible for conducting State mandated inspections of all public pools, which include wading pools located at municipalities, hotels, motels, apartments, townhouses, condominiums and schools. A wading pool is defined as a pool having a maximum water depth not exceeding 18 inches. We are requesting your cooperation in ensuring compliance with this newest section of the Code. This can be accomplished in the following manner:

- All existing wading pools must be brought into compliance with the new law by January 1, 2000. Three copies of detailed plans and specifications must be submitted to this Department for review and approval prior to any work being started. The payment of an applicable plan review fee is required.
- All /construction work must conform to local building codes and have necessary approval from the local building department. Please contact your local building department in order to determine their procedures, requirements, and fees for the installation and inspection of these drains.

In complying with these new requirements you will be providing a safer swimming environment for your pool users. This Department appreciates your cooperation and is willing to assist you in complying with the law.