



Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services

Fecal Accidents Policy for Swimming Pools and Spas 2015

In the event that a fecal accident occurs in a pool or spa at any time the following procedures shall be followed:

- A. Formed or solid stool:
- 1) The pool or spa shall be closed and all bathers removed.
 - 2) Remove as much solid matter as possible using a net or bucket. Make sure to clean and disinfect any items used for this purpose.
 - 3) Water chemistry shall be checked. Refer to Table 1 for the specific time and free chlorine levels needed to disinfect the pool.

Table 1: Disinfection Time for a Formed-Stool Fecal Incident

Free Chlorine Level (ppm)	Disinfection Time
1.0	45 minutes
2.0	25 minutes
3.0	19 minutes

- These closure times are based on a pH of 7.5 or less and a water temperature of 77°F or higher.

- B. If fecal material is loose (diarrhea):
- 1) The pool or spa shall be closed and all bathers removed.
 - 2) Remove as much fecal material as possible, for example, using a net or bucket. Make sure to clean and disinfect any item used for this purpose.
 - 3) Water chemistry shall be checked. Refer to Table 2 for the specific time and free chlorine levels needed to disinfect the pool.

Table 2: Disinfection time for a Diarrheal Fecal Incident

Free Chlorine Level (ppm)	Disinfection Time
10	25.5 hours
20	12.75 hours
40	6.5 hours

- These closure times are based on a pH of 7.5 or less and a water temperature of 77F or higher.

For either type of incident, confirm the filtration system is operating while the water reaches and maintained at the proper chlorine level for disinfection. Backwash the filter after reaching the proper disinfection level. Do not return the backwash through the filter, replace filter media if needed.

Keep a written log of the time of the accident and the follow-up response.