

Pool and Hot Tub Water Quality

April 2026

If your facility has a pool or hot tub for guests, use this guidance to understand the requirements for recreational water facilities in [Licensed Lodging Establishment Rule](#). The rule includes water chemistry ranges, documentation requirements and safety equipment setup to keep your facility safe for guests.

If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact FoodLodging@vermont.gov.

Water Testing



- You must test each pool, hot tub or recreational water facility (RWF) **daily**.
- Keep test kits on site. Test kits must include:
 - Appropriate disinfecting chemicals (chlorine or bromine), with the ability to accurately measure disinfectant residual levels of 0.5 parts per million (ppm) to 20 ppm.
 - A chemical test kit or testing device that can accurately measure the pH of water in increments of 0.2.
 - For hot tubs: A thermometer or other device that can accurately record water temperature within 2°F.

Water chemistry



Keep pool chemistry within required ranges to make sure the water is sanitized without causing guests to have a reaction. If water pH and disinfectant residuals test above or below these ranges, **close the pool or hot tub** and correct the chemistry.

- Disinfectant residuals in parts per million (ppm):

Disinfectant	Swimming pool or RWF	Hot tub
Chlorine	1.0 to 5.0 ppm	2.9 to 5.0 ppm
Bromine	1.0 to 5.0 ppm	2.0 to 5.0 ppm

- **pH levels** for swimming pools, RWFs and hot tubs must be between 7.0 and 8.0.
- The **water temperature for hot tubs** must be 104 ° F or less.

Documentation



Keep logs on site for at least 1 year. Logs must be available for your inspector to review. These include:

- Daily testing logs with disinfectant residuals, pH levels and hot tub water temperatures.
- Fecal and vomiting accident logs **and** written plans.
 - Maintain written plans so that accidents are cleaned quickly and properly. Having a policy in place will lower your guests' health risk and allow you to easily reopen your facility.

Safety Equipment



- Outdoor pools and RWFs must be enclosed and secured with a fence or other enclosure that is at least 4 feet tall.
- This safety equipment must be available at each pool, hot tub and RWF:
 - A shepherd's crook or life pole
 - A rescue ring with a rope that is twice the length of the pool
 - Posted safety rules

More Information

- Find more guidance for preventing injury and illness at your pool or hot tub with the Center for Disease Control's [Model Aquatic Health Code](#).
- Learn how to [prevent Legionella at your facility](#).
- Visit our [Water Safety in Vermont web page](#) for more swim safety tips and resources.
- Consider taking a Certified Pool Operator training to learn more about water chemistry and customizing maintenance needs to your facility.