

WHEN DO I NEED TO GET A CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FOR A SWIMMING POOL?

A Construction Permit must be obtained from Interior Health (IH) before construction, installation, alteration or renovation of a public or commercial pool or spa. IH Public Health Engineers (PHEs) are responsible for reviewing proposals and issuing Construction Permits throughout the BC Interior Region.

Public health engineering standards must be met for the proposed construction of the pool or spa to ensure that they will not constitute a health hazard. The role of the PHE is to provide an assessment of the potential health risks in the design and whether the design will meet health protection objectives. PHEs must also consider the [BC Pool Regulation](#) and the [BC Guidelines for Swimming Pool Design](#) in their decision to issue a construction permit.

The role of the design engineer/architect is to provide the design for construction or renovation of the proposed pool or spa to industry standards and regulatory requirements. The design is wholly the responsibility of the design engineer/architect.

New Pools and/or Spas

New pools and spas require that a [Pool Construction Permit Application](#) be completed and submitted. Along with the Application, completed pool data sheets, drawings, etc. must also be included. A Construction Permit must be issued prior to commencement of any construction.

Equipment and Facility Upgrades

Any upgrades that potentially impact the health and safety of pool patrons require a Construction Permit prior to commencement of work. This could include, but is not limited to, items such as:

- Pump upgrade
- Chlorination system upgrade
- Change of disinfection method
- Pool Liner Replacement
- Floor replacement in pool basins, decks, change rooms, and other walking areas
- Water slide, rope swing etc. installation
- Pool basin resurfacing
- Spa replacement/ upgrade
- Filter upgrade
- Main drain cover replacement

In some instances, the need for a Construction Permit may be waived if pool works and upgrades are considered minor. Please refer to [HP-WQ-9110 Guidance for Minor Pool Works](#) for examples and for more information.

Like for Like Replacement

A “Like-for-Like” replacement does not require a Construction Permit Application. However, “Like-for-Like” requires:

1. Having the certified pool and/or spa data sheet with the original component specifications included. This presumes that the original installation was approved by IH
2. The replacement is of an identical model, size, specifications, and from the same manufacturer

If there are any questions about the Construction Permit process or whether a permit is required for your proposed works, contact a Public Health Engineer. For more information about how to apply for a pool Construction Permit, please visit [IH Recreational Water Permits and Resources](#) or contact us at:

Email: engineeringdirect@interiorhealth.ca

Toll Free: 1-855-743-3550

Mail: Engineering Direct- 3090 Skaha Lake Rd, Penticton BC V2A 7H2