

## GUIDANCE FOR MINOR POOL WORKS - DRAIN COVERS, LINER REPLACEMENT, AND BASIN REFINISHING

The need for a Construction Permit may be waived in cases where pool works and upgrades are minor. This document outlines typical changes or upgrades that could be considered minor works. Applicants will need to submit a [Construction Permit Application Form](#) indicating replacement and alteration work and be reviewed by Interior Health (IH)'s public health engineering team to determine if a permit can be waived. A waiver letter will be provided to the applicant upon review of the application.

### Pool Drain Cover Replacements

Drain covers and its components must be of a design that will not cause potential suction hazards. When replacing old pool drain covers, the following points must be considered:

#### Drain cover and sump design

- Drain covers are to be certified to the most current ANSI/APSP standard.
- Pool drains consist of two separate pieces: a sump and its pool drain cover. Existing sump designs must have previously been approved by IH and be compatible for use with the new drain cover. Drain covers are only to be fitted according to installation instructions along with suitable sumps that follow manufacturers' sump specifications and design.

#### Velocity

- Velocity through drains must be less than 1.5 feet/sec (46cm/sec) at the design flow rate where velocity = design flow rate (Imperial gallons per min)/ drain cover open area x 0.385 OR design flow rate (US gallons per min)/ drain cover open area x 0.32.

**Note:** Refer to the pool data sheet to locate the design flow rate. Refer to manufacturer specifications for cover open area information. If you are unsure about how to calculate velocity through drains, please discuss with your pool supplier.

### Pool Liners Replacements

Slip resistant surfaces are needed where water depth in a pool is less than 5 feet (1.5m). There is no one standard to determine appropriate slip resistance. Applicants should provide additional information such as third party test methods for slip resistance for their proposed liner to determine its suitability.

For safety reasons, it is important for pool liners to be light in colour to allow the deepest part of the pool to be easily seen. The colour can be measured by what is known as a light reflectance value (LRV). Acceptable colours are usually very light blue or white in colour with a LRV value of 60 or greater.

## Like for Like Liner Replacement

Applicants must show that the new liner being proposed is a like for like replacement. Please refer to the document [When Do I Need to Get a Construction Permit For a Swimming Pool?](#) for more information.

## Pool Basins Re-painting and Re-finishing

Paint or finish used should be of an acceptable pool based variety that is compatible with the current paint and finish of your basin surface. They should be waterproof, durable, and slip resistant.

Slip resistant surfaces are needed where water depth is less than 5 feet (1.5m). Slip resistance for pool basins is usually a silicon or sand based product that is mixed into the paint or a product already present in the paint specific for slip resistance. Ensure any added slip resistant materials are suitable to use on your chosen paint or finish product. Refer to manufacturer's specifications and instructions if you are unsure.

For safety reasons, it is important for pool basin paints or finish to be light in colour to allow the deepest part of the pool to be easily seen. The colour can be measured by what is known as a light reflectance value (LRV). Acceptable colours are usually very light blue or white in colour with a LRV value of 60 or greater.

**Note:** The guidance outlined is general in scope and may not cover all the requirements. For more information please refer to the latest BC Guidelines for Pool Design: [B.C. Guidelines for Pool Design Interim Version 3 \(Oct 2021\)](#).