

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

A **Construction Permit** must be obtained from a Health Officer before construction, installation, alteration or renovation of a *public* or *commercial* pool or spa (see *BC Pool Regulation* and *BC Guidelines for Swimming Pool Design*). Interior Health, Public Health Engineers are charged with issuing Construction Permits in the BC southern interior.

The fundamental consideration in the issuance of a permit is whether the proposed system meets appropriate public health engineering standards for that type of pool or spa and whether the Public Health Engineer is satisfied the pool or spa will not constitute a health hazard. The role of the Public Health Engineer is to provide an assessment of the potential health risks in the design and whether the design will meet health protection objectives. Public Health Engineers must 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 the proposed pool/ spa or facility upgrades 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, such items as:

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

Pursuant to section 5 (6) of the BC Pool Regulations the requirement of a Construction Permit can be waived if the works are considered minor. In such a case the Public Health Engineer will complete a health and safety review of the items noted.

“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 Interior Health Authority, and
2. The replacement model is from the same manufacturer, the same model , specifications, and the same size.

If there are any questions about the Construction Permit process or if a permit is required, contact a Public Health Engineer.

More information on how to apply for a pool Construction Permit visit our website or contact us at:

Email:

engineeringdirect@interiorhealth.ca

Toll Free: 1-855-743-3550

Mail: Engineering Direct

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