

Pool & Spa Recovery Tips after a Flood

Emergency situations brought on by unexpected events, such as weather catastrophe and power outages can cause equipment failure or heavy contamination of the pool. Flood waters can carry waste and sewage. Please see guidance below for recovery information.

Pool & Spa Recovery Tips

1. Do not completely drain your pool unless necessary. Changes in hydrostatic pressures can cause the pool shell to crack, bulge, or float. Consult a pool service professional.
2. Inspect and repair the pool/spa fencing and gates.
3. Assess electrical equipment prior to commencing any work to ensure the safety of yourself and others. Call a licensed electrician or your pool service provider, if needed.
4. Remove as much debris as possible with a pool leaf rake, shovel, or net.
5. Clean and empty skimmer and pump baskets. Don't forget to check the main drain/s for debris.
6. Partially drain the excess water to sanitary sewer. **DO NOT** discharge to the storm drain or septic systems.



Is your pool/spa contaminated with flood water?

1. Disinfect it. Increase free-chlorine to 20 ppm and maintain it for at least 12.75 hours. If the pool water contains cyanuric acid, increase free-chlorine to 40 ppm or higher and reduce the pH to 6.5 or lower for no less than 30 hours.
2. Backwash your sand or DE filter to sanitary sewer. If a cartridge filter is used, it should be replaced.
3. Return chemicals in the pool to normal operating ranges.
 - Pool: free chlorine 2.0 ppm – 10 ppm
 - Spa/wading pool/spray ground: free chlorine 3.0 ppm – 10.0 ppm
 - pH 7.2 - 7.8
 - Cyanuric acid/stabilizer < 100 ppm

For More Information:

- For pool/spa draining: https://waterresources.saccounty.gov/Documents/SwimmingPool_Jul09.pdf
- For pool/spa self-inspection checklist: <https://emd.saccounty.gov/EH/Documents/SELF%20INSPECTION%20CHECKLIST.pdf>
- For additional stormwater information: www.sacramentostormwater.org
- For information about power outages & pools: <https://emd.saccounty.gov/EH/Documents/POOL%20POWER%20OUTAGES%2001%2009%202018.pdf>
- Guidelines for disinfecting public swimming pool and spa after fecal, vomit, or blood contamination: <https://emd.saccounty.gov/EH/Documents/FECAL%20VOMIT%20BLOOD%20CONTAMINATION.pdf>