



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/eh/ehhome.htm

How to Comply with Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act

In December 2007, the Federal Government enacted the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. The law mandates that public swimming pools and spas be equipped with anti-entrapment drain covers. Current standards require that these covers comply with the American National Standards Institute/ Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (ANSI/ APSP-16) performance standards.

Does your pool or spa have dual main drains?

Every public pool and spa with multiple main drains shall be equipped with ANSI/ APSP-16 anti-entrapment drain covers. Main drain suction lines must be separated by at least 36 inches (see Figure 1) or must be associated with a secondary anti-entrapment system.

Does your pool or spa have a single main drain?

In addition to the anti-entrapment drain covers, any swimming pool or spa with a single main drain must be equipped, at a minimum, with one or more of the following devices or systems designed to prevent entrapment by pool or spa drains:

1. Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS)
2. Suction-Limiting Vent System
3. Gravity Drainage System
4. Split the single main drain to dual drains

Please note that for the purposes of compliance with this act, equalizer line covers must also be equipped with approved anti-entrapment covers irrespective of how many main drains are in the pool. Equalizer lines must also have a manufactured or field-built sump if specified by the manufacturer.

Any modifications made to a swimming pool or spa must be reviewed and approved by the Division of Environmental Health (EHD). A plan review may be required even for just replacing covers.

In order to complete a plan review, you will need to submit the following information to EHS:

1. Application for Plan Check,
2. A completed Swimming Pool and Spa Minor Remodel Plan Review Form*,
3. Manufacturers information sheets (cut sheets) on all equipment to be installed or replaced (this includes drain covers and SVRS units),
4. Contact the Environmental Health Division for current fees.

* When completing the minor remodel plan review form at a minimum provide the gallonage of the pool, pump information, # of skimmers, suction plumbing size and type, schematic drawing of added equipment (i.e. SVRS installation), and a project description of all modifications being made.

Consult with a licensed swimming pool contractor to assist you with choosing and installing any new pool or spa equipment. All anti-entrapment work must be certified by a licensed pool contractor.

If you need further clarification or have any questions please contact us at (831) 454-2022.

Figure 1.

The suction outlet for each pump shall be split with at least two suction outlets and hydraulically balanced. The suction outlets shall be separated by a distance of at least 3 feet as measured cover edge to cover edge. A hydraulic balance means that the each branch from the "T" to the suction outlet is equal in length. Note: Spas have two separate systems, one for filtration and the other for the jets. Each pump must comply with dual drain requirements.

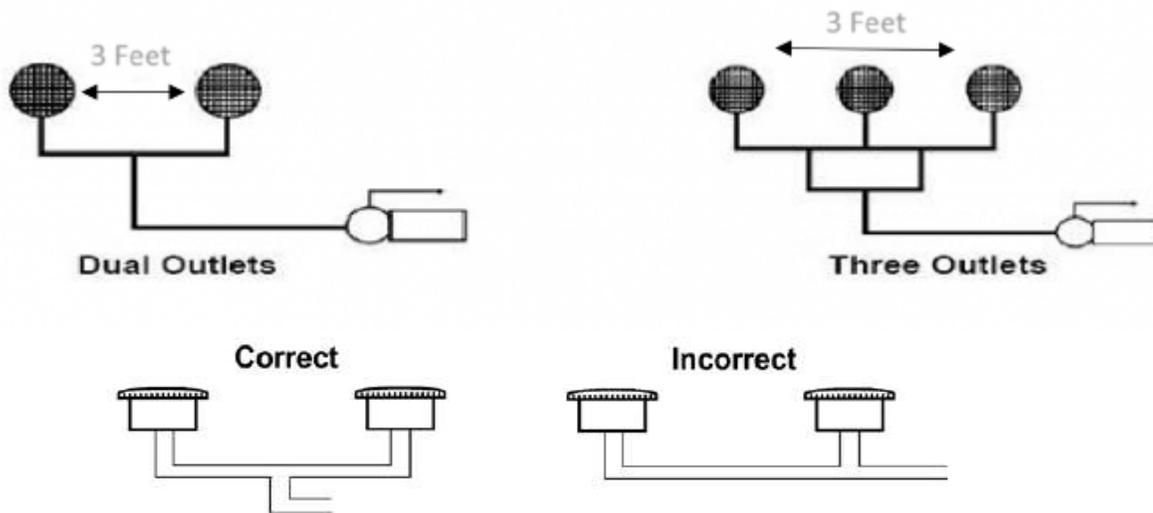
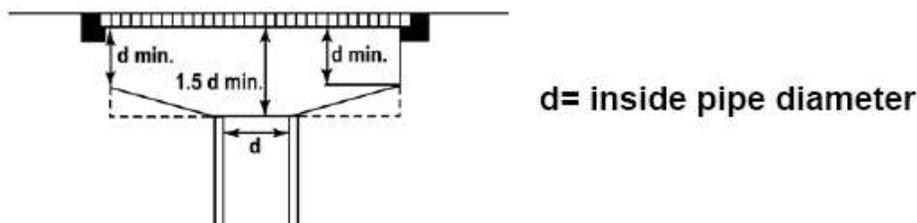


Figure 2.

If the suction outlet cover/grate is not part of the manufactured sump and is placed on a field-built sump, the sump must comply with the following dimensions.



All covers must be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications. Provide a sump as specified by the manufacturer. Some covers do not require a sump, but may require they be installed with a special mud ring or other attachments. Please be aware that covers may need to be replaced after 3 to 10 years. Most covers have a life span of 5 years. Always replace broken or damaged covers.