

**Chapter 9-17**

**SWIMMING POOLS**

**Sections:**

<b>9-17-01</b>	<b>PERMITS</b>
<b>9-17-02</b>	<b>INSPECTION</b>
<b>9-17-03</b>	<b>POOL ATTENDANT OR SUPERVISOR</b>
<b>9-17-04</b>	<b>BACTERIAL QUALITY OF WATER</b>
<b>9-17-05</b>	<b>RECORDS</b>
<b>9-17-06</b>	<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>
<b>9-17-07</b>	<b>RECIRCULATION SYSTEM</b>
<b>9-17-08</b>	<b>RECIRCULATION INLET FITTINGS AND PIPING</b>
<b>9-17-09</b>	<b>POOL FITTINGS AND PIPINGS</b>
<b>9-17-10</b>	<b>WATER INLETS</b>
<b>9-17-11</b>	<b>CAPACITY OF FILTER AND PUMPS</b>
<b>9-17-12</b>	<b>FILTERS; CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT</b>
<b>9-17-13</b>	<b>WATER HEATING</b>
<b>9-17-14</b>	<b>SANITARY FACILITIES</b>
<b>9-17-15</b>	<b>DEFINITIONS</b>
<b>9-17-16</b>	<b>PENALTIES</b>

**Section 9-17-01 PERMITS**

In order to protect the health of the patrons of the swimming pools, the following regulations are hereby adopted:

- A. Before any privately owned public pool or semipublic pool shall be placed in operation, an operating permit must be secured from the Health Department.
- B. Applications for operation permits shall be made on forms supplied by the Health Department, addressed to the Boise City Health Department, 209 Sherwood, Boise, Idaho. Such application shall state the name and location of the pool, owner, manager, proposed season of operation, proposed source of water supply, proposed method of laundering, disinfecting and drying bathing apparel, and shall further indicate that compliance with these rules and regulations has been or will be effected.
- C. Operation permits for newly constructed or remodeled pools will be issued only after an inspection of the pool by a Health Department representative indicates that all work has been completed in accordance with approved plans.
- D. Operation permits will remain valid until revoked.
- E. Continued validity of operation permits shall be contingent upon regular submission of pool water samples, and pool operation reports at a frequency and in a manner prescribed by the Health Department, and inspection of the operation indicates that the pool is properly operated at all times.

**Section 9-17-02 INSPECTION**

## Boise Municipal Code

All public and semipublic swimming pools shall be open for inspection by authorized representatives of the Health Department at any time when the swimming pool is in operation.

### **Section 9-17-03 POOL ATTENDANT OR SUPERVISOR**

Every public and semipublic swimming pool shall be under the supervision of a competent manager or operator who shall be responsible for the maintenance of sanitary conditions.

### **Section 9-17-04 BACTERIAL QUALITY OF WATER**

The bacterial quality of swimming pool water shall be as follows:  
Coliform organisms: Not more than ten percent (10%) of the five (5) tube portion of the samples covering any considerable period of time shall show a positive confirmed test for coliform organisms in any of the five (5) ten milliliter (10 ml.) portions of water, said samples having been collected when the pool was in use.

Bacteriological and chemical analyses shall be made in accordance with the procedures recommended in the latest edition of Standard Methods for the Examination of Water, as published by the U.S. Public Health Service or other accepted methods of determining coliform contamination may be used to determine the bacterial quality of water.

### **Section 9-17-05 RECORDS**

The owner of a public or semipublic swimming pool shall keep such records of attendance, operation and water quality which the Health Department require. A copy of such records shall be submitted once each week to the Health Department on forms provided by said Department.

### **Section 9-17-06 CONSTRUCTION**

Every public or semipublic swimming pool, and, where applicable, public wading pool shall be constructed in accordance with the following requirements:

- A. Plans: No public or semipublic swimming pool shall be built until plans have been submitted to and approved by the Health Officer and the Building Department and a building permit has been secured from the Building Department. Except that plans and specifications for private swimming pools required by the Building Department shall be submitted and such pools shall be constructed in accordance with the Building Code, Plumbing Code and Electrical Code.
- B. Auxiliary Buildings: Every public swimming pool, except semipublic pools where equivalent facilities are provided elsewhere on the premises, shall be provided with conveniently located dressing, shower, locker and toilet rooms, and if such pool is intended for simultaneous use by both sexes, such facilities shall be provided for each sex.
- C. Arrangement of Buildings and Rooms: The locker, shower and dressing rooms and passageways shall be arranged so that bathers are routed from dressing and locker rooms, through a shower to the entrance to the pool area, such entrance to be at or near the shallow end of the pool.
- D. Floors, Walks and Walls: In addition to other applicable provisions of the Building Code, the floors and walls of shower, locker, dressing and toilet rooms shall be of smooth, washable

## Boise Municipal Code

material which is capable of withstanding repeated flushing with a hose. Floors and walks at swimming or wading pools used by bathers shall be of concrete, fire clay tile, ceramic tile or masonry having a nonslip but smooth finish. Such floors and walks shall have a slope of not less than one-eighth inch (1/8") per foot nor more than one-half inch (1/2") per foot toward a drain or to an area suitable for receiving such drainage without creating ponding or muddy conditions and not in violation of any provisions of this Code. Partitions shall be waterproof to a height of one foot (1') above the floor or they shall terminate at least eight inches (8") above the floor.

- E. Decks: There shall be provided completely around every swimming pool and wading pool, a paved walk or deck not less than five feet (5') wide, except that at semipublic pools and wading pools it may be not less than four feet (4') wide, both measured from the pool side edge or coping of the pool to the edge of the walk or to the fence or wall, whichever is closer. At public swimming pools there shall be a clear, unobstructed, paved area extending at least four feet (4') from both sides of the diving board or its appurtenances.

The surface of the paved walk or deck shall not drain into the swimming pool or wading pool or the overflow gutter thereof. The drainage shall be conducted away from the pool area in a manner that will not create muddy conditions or a nuisance. If floor drains are provided these shall be spaced and arranged so not more than six hundred twenty-five square feet (625 sq. ft.) of area is tributary to each and drains shall be not over twenty-five feet (25') apart.

- F. Windows and View Screens: All shower and toilet rooms shall be equipped with openable windows or mechanical ventilation system as required by the Building Code. Windows and doors of toilet, shower and dressing rooms shall be so located, or protected by view screens, as to protect occupants of such rooms from view from portions of the building used by the opposite sex and from the outdoors.
- G. Spectators' Area: At all public pools fences or walls shall be provided to prevent nonbathers in street clothes from entering the bathing area or walking on surfaces frequented by bathers. The fence, or other barrier, surrounding the pool may be modified in consideration of architectural and landscaping requirements provided that such fence must adequately fulfill the function of completely excluding spectators from the pool enclosure. It shall have a minimum height of three feet (3').
- H. Towers and Steps: Diving towers and steps shall be of substantial construction and of sufficient structural strength to safely carry the maximum anticipated loads. Steps shall be of corrosion-resistant material, of easily cleanable and nonslip design. Suitable handrails shall be provided at all steps and ladders leading to diving towers. The decks of diving towers which are over three feet (3') high shall be protected with suitable railings to prevent falling, except into the water.

If the vertical distance from the bottom of the pool to the deck or walk is over two feet (2'), steps or ladders shall be provided. If the width of the pool exceeds thirty feet (30') such steps or ladders shall be provided at each side of the deep portion of the pool. Steps leading into pools shall have a minimum tread of ten and one-half inches (10 1/2") and a maximum rise or height of not to exceed eight inches (8").

Pool ladders shall be corrosion-resistant and shall be equipped with non-slip treads or rungs. All ladders shall be so designed as to provide a suitable handhold and shall be rigidly installed. There shall be a clearance of not more than five inches (5") nor less than three inches (3") between any ladder and the pool wall.

## Boise Municipal Code

- I. **Lighting:** Lighting shall be provided at all swimming pools used or intended to be used for night swimming, providing uniform lighting of one-half (1/2) watt per square foot of pool water surface. For such pools, light fixtures shall be of such number, location and design as to light all parts of the area surrounding such pool and the dressing and locker room areas, with an intensity of at least two (2) foot-candles.
- J. **Material:** Pools shall be lined with concrete, tile or other material approved by the Health Department having a white or light colored, waterproof finish which is smooth, durable and easily cleanable.
- K. **Shape:** Swimming pools shall be free of any recessed areas which are not completely within the view from the front of the lifeguard or persons in charge of the pool.
- L. **Depth Markings:** Depth markings in one foot (1') increments shall be provided for the shallow portion of the pool to the point where the slope exceeds one foot (1') in fifteen feet (15') at the deepest water point, including the deep end. The depth markings shall be easily seen and be of a minimum size of four inches (4") high and be located on the pool walls or deck and shall be on both sides of the pool. The depth markings shall contrast sharply in color with the swimming pool lining.
- M. **Slopes and Radii:** The slope of the bottom of any part of a pool which is less than four feet six inches (4'6") deep shall not be steeper than one foot (1') in twelve feet (12').
- N. **Rope Float:** A rope with floats not over five feet (5') apart shall be attached to corrosion-resistant fastenings on opposite sides of the pool, securely installed and completely recessed into the wall. These fastenings shall be placed not less than two feet (2') toward the shallow end from the point where the slope of the bottom begins to exceed one foot (1') in fifteen feet (15').
- O. **Side Walls:** Side walls of a pool shall be vertical to a depth of at least six feet (6') or shall have a slope or curvature meeting one of the following conditions:
1. The pool wall may be vertical for three and five-tenths feet (3.5') from the water level below which the wall may intersect with a horizontal ledge which shall not exceed twelve inches (12") in width with a curved edge not less than a two inch (2") radius at which point the wall may be curved to the bottom with the radius at any point equal to the difference between the depth, at that point, and three feet (3').
  2. To a depth of six feet (6'), except as in Subsection 1 above, the wall slope shall not be less than one foot (1') horizontal to six feet (6') vertical.
- P. **Depth:** Depths for pools with skimmers shall be measured from the maximum level as established by the skimmer or lip of the overflow gutter. The depth of the shallow end of a pool shall not exceed three feet six inches (3'6"). The minimum depth at the deepest point of a swimming pool without a diving board shall be six feet (6'); except that a semipublic pool that is clearly and plainly posted, "No Diving Allowed," may be exempt from this requirement.
- Q. **Gradual Slope:** There shall be a gradual slope in all pools six feet (6') to eight and one-half feet (8.5') in depth. This slope shall be equivalent to not more than three inches (3") per foot from the deepest point of the pool to the grade break.
1. Pools with diving boards not over thirty inches (30") above the water and extending not

## Boise Municipal Code

over three feet (3') into the pool area shall be not less than eight feet six inches (8'6") deep, twelve feet (12') from the edge of the pool where the diving board is located.

2. Pools with diving boards not over one (1) meter above the water (meter board) shall be not less than eight feet six inches (8'6") deep, fifteen feet (15') from the edge of the pool where the diving board is located.
  3. Pools with three (3) meter diving boards shall be not less than ten feet (10') deep, fifteen feet (15') from the edge of the pool where the diving board is located.
  4. When diving boards are provided there shall be a gradual slope for a horizontal distance of at least twelve feet (12') from the deepest part of the bottom of the pool to the grade break at the four feet six inch (4'6") depth.
  5. Exception: Pools designed and intended exclusively for training, diving or other special use, need not meet the minimum depth requirements when approved by the Health Officer.
- R. Overflow Gutters and Skimmers: For all swimming pools, except as described in Subsection (T), there shall be built into the walls, at the water surface, extending completely around the pool, an overflow gutter which shall also serve as a handhold. This gutter shall continuously remove water. The gutter shall be designed to remove all overflow water and shall be at least three inches (3") deep with the overflow edge rounded and not thicker than two and one-half inches (2 1/2") for the top two inches (2"). The opening into the gutter beneath the coping shall be not less than four inches (4") high and the interior of the gutter shall be not less than three inches (3") wide and rounded on the bottom. The gutter and deck design shall be such that the gutter does not serve as the top edge of the pool. The bottom of the gutters shall slope to drains located at the deepest points, not over twelve feet (12') apart if the pitch to the floor of the gutter is less than one-eighth inch (1/8") per foot, or not over twenty-five feet (25') apart if the pitch to the floor of the gutter is one-eighth inch (1/8") per foot, or greater, and located to completely drain all portions of such gutter. The drains shall be provided with outlet pipes at least two inches (2") in diameter and shall have a clear opening in the grating at least equal to the cross sectional area of the outlet pipe. Where overflow recirculation gutters are used which are designed to handle the filter capacity of the pool, a change in the number of drains may be considered. All overflow gutters shall be connected to the recirculation system through a properly designed surge tank or discharge to the public sewer.
- S. Handholds: Handholds shall consist of a bull-nosed coping not over two and one-fourth inches (2 1/4") thick for the outer two inches (2") or an equivalent approved handhold. The handhold must be not more than nine inches (9") above the normal water line.
- T. Skimmers: Skimmers may be permitted in lieu of overflow gutters on swimming pools providing acceptable handholds are installed and the skimming devices are approved by the Health Department. At least one (1) skimming device shall be provided for each eight hundred square feet (800 sq. ft.) of surface area or fraction thereof. Skimmers shall be located not more than thirty feet (30') apart. If more than one (1) skimmer is used, the skimmers shall be so located that they are diametrically opposed with respect to the general surface area of the pool.

Skimming devices shall be built into the pool wall, to adequately remove floating oils and waste and shall meet the following general specifications:

## Boise Municipal Code

1. Each skimmer shall be designed for a flow-through rate of at least thirty (30) gallons per minute and a total capacity of all skimmers on any pool shall be at least fifty percent (50%) of the required filter flow of the recirculation system.
2. They shall be automatically adjustable to variations in water level over a range of at least three inches (3").
3. An easily removable and cleanable basket or screen through which all overflow water must pass shall be provided to trap large solids.
4. The skimmer shall be provided with a device to prevent airlock in the suction line. If an equalizer pipe is used it shall provide an adequate amount of makeup water for pump suction should the water of the pool drop below the weir level. This pipe shall be at least two inches (2") in diameter and shall be located at least one foot (1') below the lowest overflow level of the skimmer.
5. An equalizer line shall be provided with a valve that will remain tightly closed under normal operating conditions, but will automatically open at a differential of not more than four inches (4") between the pool level and the level of the overflow tank.
6. The overflow weir shall be of sufficient length to maintain a rate of flow of at least twenty (20) gallons per minute per lineal foot of weir lip.

### **Section 9-17-07 RECIRCULATION SYSTEM**

Each pool shall be equipped with a recirculating filtration and chemical disinfecting system, as approved by the Health Officer, and necessary to maintain the pool water in a clear, clean sanitary condition.

### **Section 9-17-08 RECIRCULATION INLET FITTINGS AND PIPING**

The recirculation inlet fittings shall be sized and spaced so as to produce uniform circulation of water throughout all parts of the pool. The inlets from the recirculating system shall be submerged at least eighteen inches (18") below the rim of the pool with at least fifty percent (50%) of these inlets, which are toward the deep end of the pool, installed thirty inches (30") below the rim of the pool. The inlets shall be designed for the following maximum capacity:

Minimum Flow Rates (in gallons per minute), Size: 1" -- G.P.M. 11; 1-1/4" -- 20; 1-1/2" -- 30; 2" -- 50; 2-1/2" -- 90; 3" -- 150.

There shall be at least one (1) inlet for each three hundred fifty square feet (350 sq. ft.) of pool water surface area, with a minimum of four (4) inlets for the smallest pool. For a public pool of an average width of not more than twenty-five feet (25'), inlets shall be provided not more than twenty feet (20') apart, and there shall be an inlet not more than ten feet (10') from each corner of the pool. Arrangements shall be provided to adjust the flow to various portions of the pool with either adjustable orifice inlet fittings or valves on inlet piping manifolds.

The entire recirculation inlet piping system shall be of such size that with design flows, velocities do not exceed ten feet (10') per second.

**Section 9-17-09 POOL FITTINGS AND PIPINGS**

There shall be provided a pool outlet, or main drain, at the lowest point of each pool. Outlet fittings and gratings shall have an open, unobstructed area of at least twice the area of the pipe to which they discharge. Each drain fitting shall be provided with a sturdy, corrosion-resistant grating with openings not greater than three-eighths inches (3/8") wide. When the main drain is also the suction supply to the system, at least two (2) outlet fittings shall be installed in pools more than thirty-five feet (35') wide.

Pipes receiving water from overflow gutter drains shall have a slope of at least one-fourth inch (1/4") per foot and shall be of adequate capacity to completely drain the gutters to handle pool overflow of short duration without flooding the overflow gutters. Materials used for pool piping and fittings shall meet the Plumbing Code requirements for water piping.

**Section 9-17-10 WATER INLETS**

Each pool shall be designed so that fresh water may be added to the pool or recirculation through a fixed air gap conforming to the provisions of the Uniform Plumbing Code.

**Section 9-17-11 CAPACITY OF FILTER AND PUMPS**

Every swimming pool shall have a recirculating system with an hourly capacity equal to the pool volume divided by six (6), except that for a semipublic pool the recirculating system may have a capacity of the pool volume divided by eight (8).

**Section 9-17-12 FILTERS; CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT**

Pumps, filters, disinfecting systems, chemical equipment for treating the water, rate controlling devices and operating valves shall be of a size and type as approved by the Health Officer and in accordance with regulations of the State Board of Health. All valves, pumps and equipment shall be installed so as to be readily accessible for operation, maintenance and inspection.

Filters and pumps shall be provided with air release valves.

A. Diatomaceous Earth Filter Specifications:

1. Diatomaceous earth filters shall be designed for a maximum filter rate of two (2) gallons per minute per square foot of filter area.
2. The diatomaceous earth required shall be of medium grade and the filter shall be precoat in the amount of two-tenths (.2) pound per square foot of filter area.
3. A slurry precoat pot shall be provided with each filter.
4. A method of adequate backwashing or satisfactory cleaning in place shall be incorporated.
5. Sixty feet (60') of head over that of the sand filter shall be used in figuring pump

## Boise Municipal Code

capacity.

- B. If rapid sand pressure filters are used, they shall be of sufficient size so that at the required filter rate the water application to the filter shall not exceed three (3) gallons per square foot per minute. Pressure filters shall be equipped with loss of head and rate of flow gauges. Provisions shall be made to backwash the filters at the rate of twelve (12) gallons of water applied to each square foot per minute. Filters shall be provided with at least twenty-four inches (24") of filter material. The sand used for filtering shall have an effective size between four-tenths (.4) and six-tenths (.6) millimeter. The filter shall provide sufficient clearance above the filter media to allow not less than twelve inches (12") vertical clearance.

### **Section 9-17-13 WATER HEATING**

Where water heaters are used, they shall be regulated so water entering the pool is at a temperature of not over one hundred ten degrees Fahrenheit (110° F).

### **Section 9-17-14 SANITARY FACILITIES**

At all swimming pools, except at semi-public and private pools where sanitary facilities are available to the occupants of the premises, there shall be provided and maintained the following plumbing facilities.

- A. **Bathroom Facilities:** Bathroom facilities shall include separate dressing rooms, showers, toilets and lavatories for each sex whenever both sexes will be permitted to use the pool simultaneously. Seven square feet (7 sq. ft.) for women and three and five-tenths square feet (3.5 sq. ft.) for men of dressing room area shall be provided for each patron expected at time of maximum load.
- B. Showers, toilets and washbasins shall be installed and maintained as follows: One (1) shower for forty (40) bathers (at maximum load); one (1) toilet for forty (40) women; one (1) toilet and (1) urinal for each sixty (60) men; one washbasin for each sixty (60) patrons.
- C. Drinking fountains should be available near the pool. Fountains should be of the protected-head angle-stream type so that the users are protected from the sputum of others. The water supply must be of a safe sanitary quality, as outlined under "Water Supply". (Ord. 2399; 4-13-59)

### **Section 9-17-15 DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this Chapter, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meaning herein given. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the plural number include the singular number, and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" as used herein is mandatory and not merely directory.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** The Central District Health Department created and established pursuant to provisions of Chapter 4, Title 39, Idaho Code.

**PERSON:** Any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or any organization of any kind.

**PRIVATE POOL:** Any swimming pool other than public or semi-public.



## Boise Municipal Code

**PUBLIC POOL:** Any swimming pool, whether publicly or privately owned, operated for the use by the general public.

**SEMI-PUBLIC POOL:** Any swimming pool operated in conjunction with hotels, motels, apartment houses, multi-family dwellings, buildings and structures, condominiums, planned unit developments, or clubs or voluntary associations of individuals for pleasure, profit or fraternal purposes, or any other similar kind or type of business, trade, or enterprise in which the use of the pool is limited to guests, patrons or members and not available to the general public.

**SWIMMING POOL:** A body of water in an artificial or semi-artificial receptacle or other structure, whether located indoors or outdoors, used or intended to be used for public, semi-public or private swimming by adults or children, or both adults and children, whether or not any charge or fee is imposed upon such adults or children, operated and maintained by any person as herein defined, whether he be an owner, lessee, operator, licensee, or concessionaire, exclusive of a private pool as defined herein, and shall include all structures, appurtenances, equipment, appliances and other facilities appurtenant to and intended for the operation and maintenance of a swimming pool.

### **Section 9-17-16PENALTIES**

Any person violating any of the provisions of this Chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in an amount not exceeding three hundred dollars (\$300.00) or be imprisoned in the City jail for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days, or be both so fined and imprisoned. Each day such violation is committed or permitted to continue, shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such hereunder. (Ord. 3441; 8-13-73)