



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, which comply with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers/American National Standards Institute (ASME/ANSI) A112.19.8-2007 standard.

Does your pool or spa have dual main drains?

Every public pool and spa with multiple main drains shall be installed with an ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 anti-entrapment drain cover. Main drains must be located at least 36 inches apart or must comply as a single main drain (see figure 1).

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 that provides a minimum separation of 1.5 times the inside pipe diameter between the bottom of the cover and the outlet pipe (see figure 2).

Any modifications made to a swimming pool or spa must be reviewed and approved by the Environmental Health Service (EHS). A plan review is required even for just replacement of 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. Plan review fee of \$181.00

* 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.

It is recommended that you consult a licensed swimming pool contractor to assist you with choosing and installing any new pool or spa equipment.

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

figure 1.

The suction side of each pump, located on any type of pool, shall be plumbed with at least two suction outlets. Suction outlets shall be separated by a distance of at least 3 feet, measured from the center of one suction pipe to the other. The suction drains must be plumbed with a T in the center that is hydraulically balanced. Each branch of the "T" must be at least the same size as the main suction plumbing. Note: Spas have two separate systems, one for the filtration and the other for the jets. Both systems need to comply with dual drain requirements.

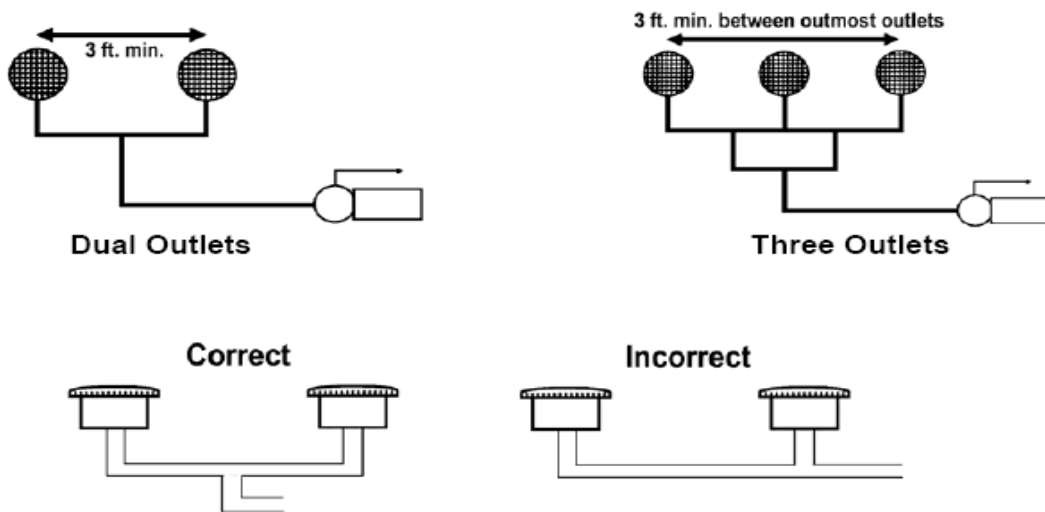


figure 2.

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.

