



Shasta County Department of Resource Management
Environmental Health Division
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Swimming Pools Impacted by Smoke and Ash

The following guidelines are recommended for the maintenance of pools impacted by smoke and ash contamination. Do not allow use of the pool until the following steps have been completed.

1. Clean skimmer baskets of debris and skim water surface of pool with pool net to remove floating debris.
2. Brush sides and bottom of pool to loosen contaminants. Vacuum pool.
3. Backwash and clean filter, discharging waste to municipal sanitary sewer only. If connected to a septic tank system, discharge the backwash to a pervious surface (gravel, lawn, open space) to allow for infiltration without erosion. Backwash to the storm drain system (alleys, driveways, streets, storm drains) and creeks is prohibited by law.
4. Check pH and adjust to between 7.2 and 7.8.
5. Check free chlorine level and adjust to minimum of 2.0 ppm (maximum of 10 ppm).
6. Ensure the recirculation system is operating properly by checking filter pressure and/or flow meter.
7. Reopen pool to bathers when pH levels are 7.2 to 7.8 and free chlorine is at least 2.0 ppm. Check chemical levels multiple times a day to be sure the chemicals remain at appropriate levels. Close the pool immediately if the chemicals are outside required levels.
8. Due to the amount of smoke and ash in the air, these steps may need to be repeated after cleaning the filters.
9. Alternatively, a swimming pool service company may be contracted to clean the pool. Check for their business license and experience in servicing pools. Pool service operators likewise are prohibited from discharging backwash to the storm drain system.

Deck Cleaning: Clean the pool deck and dispose of the debris with the rest of the solid waste. Don't hose down the deck to storm drains. You may spray lightly first to minimize dust and ashes from becoming airborne, then use a stiff brush or broom to sweep up and put in trash. A mop and bucket could also be used for cleanup.

Draining Pools: Draining of pools is not recommended. If you drain your pool, the empty pool can be pushed up by groundwater, causing irreparable damage to the pool.