



## Public Information

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency • Environmental Health Division  
800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1730 • (805) 654-2813 • [vcrma.org/divisions/environmental-health](http://vcrma.org/divisions/environmental-health)

# GUIDELINES FOR SWIMMING POOLS IMPACTED BY FIRE, SMOKE, AND ASH

- I. **Inspection:** Inspect the enclosure, barriers, the pool itself, safety equipment, pool recirculation equipment and plumbing, ancillary facilities, and all related appurtenances for any damaged or broken equipment. Plan check may be required for replacement or repair of equipment or structures at all permitted public swimming pool facilities. Contact the County of Ventura Environmental Health Division at (805) 654-2813 for assistance or evaluation of these pools. Check with your local Building Department for residential swimming pool requirements.
  
- II. **Water Quality:**
  - a. Remove debris from the skimmer baskets, and skim the water surface to remove floating debris.
  - b. Loosen contaminants by brushing the sides and bottom of the pool, and vacuum the pool.
  - c. Backwash and clean the filter. Waste and wastewater shall be discharged into an approved discharge system, such as the municipal sanitary sewer system, only. Backwashing into the storm drain system is prohibited by law.
  - d. Ensure the recirculation system is working properly by checking the filter pressure and/or the flow meter.
  - e. Check the pH of the water and adjust to 7.2 - 7.8.
  - f. Check the free chlorine residual and adjust to a minimum of 1.0 ppm for swimming pools and 3.0 ppm for spas and waders.
  - g. Debris removal and filter cleaning may be required several times as more ash and debris fall in the days and weeks following the fire event.
  - h. If hiring a swimming pool service company, check their license and experience servicing pools.
  
- III. **Pool Enclosure:** If the enclosure has been damaged or destroyed, immediately install a temporary enclosure that is secure to prevent potential drownings or injuries.

**IV. Pool Draining:**

- a. It is not recommended to drain the pool. If the pool has already been drained with no plans to refill, contact the Environmental Health Division for direction.
- b. If draining the pool is necessary, contact your local stormwater agency for guidance. Generally, the pool water should be de-chlorinated to 0.0 ppm chlorine and have a pH of 7.2-8.0 before draining.

**V. Deck Cleaning:**

- a. Do not hose down the deck to storm drains.
- b. You may lightly spray the dirt and debris with water to prevent the dust from becoming airborne.
- c. Use a stiff brush or broom, or a mop and bucket, to sweep up the dirt and debris.
- d. Discard debris with solid waste.

**VI. Mosquito Breeding:** Pools with standing water can breed mosquitos. Contact the County of Ventura Vector Control Mosquito Complaint Line at (805) 658-4310 to arrange for an inspection. The pool will be monitored until the pool is maintained.