

## Public Pool and Spa Safety Act: AB1020 Bill Highlights

[Assembly Bill 1020](#) was signed into law on October 11, 2009 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and is designed to ensure that California law conforms to the federal requirements contained in the [Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act \(VGB\)](#). The aim of both laws is to prevent suction entrapment hazards associated with public swimming pools and spas.

### . **What Does AB 1020 Require?**

- . Every Public pool, spa and wading pool must be equipped with anti-entrapment drain covers that comply with the latest compliance standards adopted by the California State Department of Public Health (CDPH).
- . If the Public pool/spa/wading pool has a single main drain that is not an approved unblockable drain, it must be equipped with at least one or more of the following devices or systems that are designed to prevent physical entrapment by pool drains:
  - A safety vacuum release system (SVRS)
  - A suction-limiting vent system
  - A gravity drainage system that utilizes a collector tank
  - An automatic pump shut-off system
  - Other systems deemed, in accordance with federal law, to be equally effective as, or more effective than the above listed systems
- . The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued a form during March, 2010 and it is now posted on their website to be used as the compliance documentation by Pool & Spa Owners. You may access the form here: [CPDH Form](#)
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  1. Forms must be submitted to Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health within 30 days of completing the work or if the work was completed prior to the form's availability, within 30 days of the forms publication.
  2. The form must be signed by a contractor who holds a current valid license issued by the State of California or a professional engineer

licensed in the State of California who has experience working on public swimming pools. The form also requires the contractor's license number.

- . Failure to comply is a misdemeanor and punishable by law.

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### **What does this mean to Swimming Pool Owners or Operators?**

- . Public pools/spas/wading pools built on or after January 1, 2010, must have two (2) main drains per pump, hydraulically balanced and symmetrically plumbed through one or more "T" fittings and separated at least three (3) feet apart.

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- . Public pools/spas/wading pools built prior to January 1, 2010, must comply with the retrofit requirements by July 1, 2010.

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- . Public pools/spas/wading pools that have completed the VGB retrofit between December 19, 2007 and January 1, 2010 and have received a written approval from our Department do not need to do anything else.

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- . Public pools/spas/wading pools that have completed the VGB retrofit between December 19, 2007 and January 1, 2010 but have not submitted to the Department of Environmental Health for review and approval must submit plans for approval and provide the [CDPH form](#) to our Department by September 30, 2010 verifying work has been completed.

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- . Please Note: The [CDPH form](#) must be submitted to our Department within 30 days of retrofit work being completed. You may access the state's informative web pages with more details on AB1020 here: [CDPH web site](#)

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CDPH is assessing an annual fee of \$6 to every public pool/spa/wading pool for four years to fund its anti-entrapment program. This fee will appear on your annual permit invoice from the Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health until January 1, 2014. If you have questions regarding this fee, please call the California Department of Public Health at (916) 449-5661.