Pool Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)

The following are frequently asked questions or general inquiries that our department receives regarding the public pool/spa inspection program. For more detailed information, or if your question isn’t answered here, please contact our office.

**How often do you inspect public swimming pools/spas?**
We are required to inspect all public pools/spas at least once per year. However, we attempt to inspect all outdoor pools/spas at least twice per season (Memorial Day to Labor Day), and indoor pools/spas throughout the year as our schedules permit.

**Why is my homeowner’s association/apartment/country club pool/spa inspected...it’s a “private” pool/spa?**
According to Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 3701-31-01(Q), a private residential swimming pool" means any “pool” located at a dwelling housing no more than three (3) families and used exclusively by the residents and their non-paying guests. Because most homeowner’s associations, apartments, country clubs, hotels, etc. accommodate more than three (3) families and sometimes have paying guests, they are, in fact, considered “public” swimming pools/spas.

**Is my public pool required to have a lifeguard?**
In general, public pools less then 2000 square feet (sf) are not required to have a lifeguard, unless they have more than fifty (50) bathers. Some pool designs or features require a lifeguard. The number of lifeguards required to be on duty depends on the square footage of the pool, the number of bathers, and various other reasons.

**My pool offers an “Adult Swim” when the lifeguards take their break. Is this allowed?**
Public pools that are required to have lifeguards on duty may offer an “Adult Swim” period; however, lifeguards must be on duty during this time. OAC Chapter 3701-31 does not make any distinction between the ages of bathers when requiring lifeguards.

**I’ve seen you with your test kit...what do you test for?**
During a routine inspection, we will test the Chlorine or Bromine level (disinfectant), pH, Total Alkalinity, and Temperature. We also test for Cyanuric Acid as applicable.
The chlorine level at my pool is too high! What is the maximum amount of chlorine a pool can have?
Pools are only required to have a minimum specified amount of chlorine. As yet, no maximum for chlorine specified in OAC 3701-31. If we conduct our water tests and, using our best judgment, determine that the chlorine level seems excessive based on other water balance findings, we notify the operator and recommend that they lower the chlorine level.

Why do some pools/spas have an odor of “too much” chlorine?
A strong chlorine odor often means there is “used up” chlorine in the pool. The odor is caused by chloramines, otherwise called combined chlorine. Pool operators are required to test for combined chlorines when they do their chlorine residual tests. If combined chlorine is too high, they need to treat the pool to convert the combined chlorine back to free chlorine.