

**FAMILY CHILD CARE
BEST PRACTICES GUIDE
WADING POOLS**

Because the use of wading pools in family child care settings could facilitate the transmission of infections among children and cause serious illness, the following Best Practices are strongly recommended:

1. Pool should be emptied daily
2. Pool should be routinely cleaned daily (following emptying) with a diluted bleach solution of 1 cup bleach to 1 gallon of water
3. Pool should be emptied and cleaned immediately if a child has a fecal accident in the pool
4. Diaper-aged children should wear tight-fitting plastic pants to help prevent fecal contamination of pool water
5. Provider should exclude any children who have diarrhea from child care
6. Staff and children practice frequent and thorough hand washing to prevent the spread of infectious diseases

For further information regarding the use of portable wading pools and/or swimming pools in connection with family child care programs, please access: <http://www.DHS.State.MN.US/Licensing>

**POOL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
FAMILY CHILD CARE**

1. Question: Are pools that are more than 24 inches deep (some with pumps and filters, etc) considered a swimming pool instead of a wading pool?
Answer: Yes, if a pool is more than 24 inches deep and cannot be (or is not) manually emptied and removed, then the pool is considered a swimming pool, not a wading pool, and the rules for swimming pools would apply.
2. Question: Can a person other than the provider perform the swimming pool maintenance and take the swimming pool operator course?
Answer: No, the law specifically states that the “provider agrees to perform all of the requirements...” Therefore, the provider needs to perform the swimming pool maintenance and take the swimming pool operator course.
3. Question: Does the swimming pool legislation cover spa pools, hot tubs or whirlpools?
Answer: No. The legislation is specific that it applies to swimming pools and wading pools. The legislation is not intended for spa pools, hot tubs or whirlpools.
4. Question: Does the new pool legislation apply to foster care?
Answer: No, the legislation applies to family child care homes and group family child care homes only.
5. Question: If a provider has a child of child care age, can this child use the swimming pool at the family child care home during child care hours even though the provider has not taken the swimming pool operator course?
Answer: No. This child would NOT be able to use the swimming pool because he/she is counted in the child care count because of their age and also because the provider has not completed the swimming pool operator course.
6. Question: If a provider has a child of child care age, can this child use the swimming pool with his/her other parent during child care hours even though the provider has not taken the pool operator class and doesn't plan to use the pool for child care?
Answer: No. This child would NOT be able to use the swimming pool because any child of child care age in the home is included in the child care count. In this case, the pool may not be used at all during child care hours because the provider has not completed the swimming pool operator course. Even though the child's other parent would be supervising the child, the provider is ultimately responsible for the care of the child.