

PITT COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

SWIMMING POOLS

Annual vs. Seasonal Permit

Should I have an annual (year-round) pool permit or a seasonal pool permit?

A statement from the NC Department of Health & Human Services indicated that pool owners should obtain a year-round permit when areas within the pool fence are accessible to the public on a year-round basis. A pool owner/operator should be obtaining an annual permit if the areas around the pool (within the fenced-in area) are accessible or include amenities that can be used during the off-months (winter), though a pool may only be open (used) during the summer months. A seasonal permit only applies to swimming pools from when the day the permit is issued through October 31st.

Benefits to having an annual permit vs seasonal permit?

As Memorial Day weekend is considered the kick-off to the summer, this generally can cause a strain during the month of May with owner/ operators, as well as Environmental Health Specialists, trying to get pools permitted and open. Owner/operators are required to get all the appropriate paperwork (**Permit Application & VGB Compliance Data form**) completed with accurate information before an inspection can be scheduled. Environmental Health Specialists are tasked with verifying that this information is correct and within compliance. An operational permit inspection can not be scheduled until all paperwork is completed, accurate, and verified. A delay with scheduling an inspection can arise if there are deficiencies found within the paperwork.

With a year-round permit, this strain can be lifted, as this alleviates the stress of a deadline with getting all said paperwork submitted within a reasonable timeframe for verification & obtaining a permit. Again, the information about the pool provided on all required paperwork needs to be verified before an inspection can be completed, which in turn can delay the process of a permit being issued.

What are considered amenities?

Fire pits, lounge areas (benches, chairs, tables, picnic tables, etc.), walking paths, grills

What if my pool only operates during the summer months? How does that work with an annual permit?

The owner/operator should post a **"Pool Closed"** sign during the months the pool is not being utilized. The signage, **"Warning – No Lifeguard on Duty"** must be posted when the area is accessible, and no lifeguard is present. The fence and self-closing gates must be maintained at all times.

While an annual permit requires 2 inspections per year, a posted **"Pool Closed"** sign would be sufficient for environmental health specialist upon an unannounced inspection.

Any questions about annual/seasonal pool permits, please feel free to contact Pitt County Environmental Health at 252-902-3200.

