

Pool/Hot Tub/Water Safety for Hospitality Meeting Kit

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Pool and hot tub water are key amenities that require meticulous care. They play a significant role in guest satisfaction and safety. Hotels, resorts, and other hospitality locations must maintain these aquatic features according to strict regulations to ensure proper sanitation and chemical balance. This involves regular testing, disinfection, and filtration to keep the water sparkling clean and comfortable for guests to enjoy.

WHAT'S THE DANGER

The risks and dangers associated with pools and hot tubs in the hospitality industry primarily revolve around the potential for waterborne diseases and infections. In addition to health risks, there are also safety concerns related to pools and hot tubs in the hospitality industry. These include the risk of drowning, electrocution, and injuries caused by sharp objects or other hazards in or around the pool area. Some of the main concerns:

Drowning: One of the most significant risks associated with pools and hot tubs is drowning, especially for young children and inexperienced swimmers. Even a small amount of water can be dangerous for a child, so proper supervision and safety measures are essential.

Slip and Fall Accidents: Wet surfaces around pools and hot tubs can be slippery, increasing the risk of slip and fall accidents. This risk is especially high in areas where there is heavy foot traffic or if the surfaces are not properly maintained.

Waterborne Illnesses: Improperly maintained water in pools and hot tubs can harbor bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens that can cause waterborne illnesses which can be caused by bacteria and

parasites such as *Cryptosporidium*, *Pseudomonas*, also diarrhea, skin infections, and respiratory infections. These pathogens can thrive in poorly maintained or improperly treated water.

Entrapment and Hair Entanglement: Poorly designed or maintained pool and hot tub equipment, such as drains and suction outlets, can pose entrapment hazards, especially for small children.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Safety Procedures to Address Risks in Pool & Hot Tub Areas:

Proper signage, employee training, and regular inspections and maintenance can help mitigate these risks and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for guests. Here's how hospitality establishments can implement safety procedures to address the risks you mentioned:

Drowning Prevention:

- **Lifeguards:** Employ trained lifeguards during operational hours, especially in larger pools.
- **Signage:** Post clear signage with pool rules, depth information, and emergency contact details.
- **Flotation Devices:** Provide life jackets and pool noodles for children who need them.
- **Supervision:** Encourage parents and guardians to actively supervise children at all times.
- **Fenced Enclosures:** Ensure complete fencing with self-closing, latched gates around the pool area.

Slip and Fall Prevention:

- **Non-Slip Surfaces:** Maintain pool decks and walkways with textured or non-slip surfaces.
- **Signage:** Post warning signs in areas prone to getting wet, like pool entrances and exits.
- **Prompt Cleanup:** Address spills and leaks immediately to minimize slippery areas.
- **Proper Footwear:** Encourage guests to wear proper footwear

around the pool area.

Waterborne Illness Prevention:

- **Regular Testing & Treatment:** Maintain a strict schedule for testing water chemistry (chlorine, pH) and applying necessary disinfectants.
- **Circulation & Filtration:** Ensure proper water circulation and filtration systems are functioning effectively.
- **Shock Treatment:** Conduct regular shock treatments to eliminate bacteria and contaminants not captured by routine disinfection.
- **Pool Hygiene:** Maintain clean pool surroundings by removing debris and discouraging eating or drinking near the pool.

Entrapment & Hair Entanglement Prevention:

- **Compliance:** Pool and hot tub design and equipment should adhere to safety regulations to prevent suction hazards.
- **Regular Inspections:** Conduct regular inspections of drains, skimmers, and other suction outlets to ensure they are functioning properly and free of debris.
- **Hair Covers:** Encourage long-haired guests to wear swim caps to minimize hair entanglement risk.

Additional Safety Measures:

- **Emergency Equipment:** Make sure first-aid kits, emergency phones, and AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) are readily available poolside.
- **Guest Education:** Provide guests with informational brochures or signage highlighting safety rules and responsible pool/hot tub use.
- **Staff Training:** Train staff on emergency procedures, recognizing signs of distress, and proper pool maintenance practices.

FINAL WORD

Enjoying the pool and hot tub at a hospitality location can be a great way to relax and have fun. By prioritizing safety measures

and guest education, hospitality establishments can ensure a worry-free experience for everyone. Remember, swimming responsibly and following all safety rules are key to making the most of your pool or hot tub time!