



City of Austin

AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

P.O. Box 142529 Austin, TX 78714

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County of Travis

August 2, 2016

Dear Pool Operator:

The Austin City Code Article 4, Section 10-7-61 and Travis County Rules for Swimming Pools, Chapter 61A, requires compliance with State Pool and Spa Regulations. All pools and spas subject to Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 265, such as apartments, condominiums, homeowner associations, hotels/motels, fitness centers, schools, and other public/semi-public facilities, must be constructed, maintained and operated in accordance with the criteria in TAC Chapter 265.

Suction outlets; i.e., floor/main drains, in pools and spas subject to TAC Chapter 265 must be compliant with Section 265.190(d) and (e), which mandates that the minimum separation distance between 2 or more suction outlets is 3 feet, as measured from the center of the suction outlets. The suction outlets must be hydraulically balanced and the suction outlet covers must be compliant with the Virginia Graeme Baker Act. In addition, 2 or more suction outlets on the same suction line shall not be more than 20' apart.

This is notification that effective **March 31, 2017**, all pools and spas subject to TAC Chapter 265 in the city limits of Austin, the unincorporated areas of Travis County, and contracted inter-local municipalities must be compliant with the 3 foot minimum separation requirement between 2 or more suction outlets/main drains, regardless of their date of original construction. Failure to bring the suction outlets into compliance will result in permit suspension or revocation by this Department. There is no provision or variance in Local or State Pool and Spa Standards which allows suction outlets to be less than 3 feet apart.

Operators are not allowed to permanently plug, seal, fill-in, etc., a suction outlet(s) that is less than 3 feet apart from another suction outlet in order to achieve compliance with the minimum 3 foot separation distance requirement.

Please contact Sabrina Vidaurri, Environmental Health Supervisor at (512) 978-0317, if you have any questions regarding this issue. You may also visit our website at <http://austintexas.gov/department/pools-spas-interactive-water-features-and-fountains> for more information regarding swimming pools and spas.

Respectfully,


David B. Lopez, R.S., Assistant Director
Environmental Health Services Division