



Public Pool Safety Program

Pool Drain Cover Safety

An exposed suction outlet (drain) in a pool presents a serious danger to children and adults. Suction from a pool's drain is so powerful it can trap someone underwater and cause accidental drowning. Using and maintaining an approved drain cover can prevent drowning and keep swimmers safe.

Use and Maintain Approved Drain Covers

1. Use a VGB Compliant Drain Cover

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB Act) requires that all public pools/spas have a drain cover that is compliant with the latest ANSI/ASME test standard.

View this [complete list of compliant drain covers](#).

2. Replace Drain Covers Per Manufacturer Instructions

All drain covers break down over time from UV light and pool chemicals.

Drain cover manufacturers will provide the drain expiration date on the product pamphlet. Most drain covers need to be replaced in 5-7 years.

3. Ensure Drain is Properly Secured/Not Broken

If the drain cover is missing, loose, or broken, close the pool until a VGB compliant drain cover is properly installed.

View examples on the right of properly secured, compliant drain covers and non-approved drain covers.



Figure 1: Approved drain cover, properly secured.



Figure 2: Drain cover that is loose.



Figure 3: Non-approved drain cover.



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