

Commercial Pool Chemical Levels Chart

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Chlorine, pH, CYA and temperature limits for public pools and spas — CDC Model Aquatic Health Code

Parameter	Pools	Spas / hot tubs	Close the pool or spa if...
Free chlorine (no CYA)	1.0 – 10.0 ppm	3.0 – 10.0 ppm	Below minimum, or above 10 ppm with bathers
Free chlorine (with CYA)	2.0 – 10.0 ppm	3.0 – 10.0 ppm	Below minimum
Bromine	3.0 – 8.0 ppm	4.0 – 8.0 ppm	Below minimum
pH	7.0 – 7.8	7.0 – 7.8	Below 6.5 or above 8.0
Combined chlorine	< 0.4 ppm	< 0.4 ppm	Not a closure item — breakpoint chlorinate
Cyanuric acid (CYA)	≤ 90 ppm	≤ 90 ppm	300 ppm or higher: remediate now (2024 MAHC)
Water temperature	—	≤ 104°F	Spa above 104°F
Main drain	Clearly visible	Clearly visible	Not visible from the deck

Testing: Free chlorine (or bromine) and pH before opening, then at least every 4 hours with an automated controller.
Many states require every 1–2 hours when chemicals are fed manually, and 4+ tests a day for spas.
Alkalinity and CYA weekly. Combined chlorine = total chlorine – free chlorine.

Values: CDC Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC). Many states set stricter limits (for example pH 7.2–7.8). Always follow the code your health department enforces.

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