



District Procedures For Inspecting Neglected Swimming Pools

Not only are they unsightly, but neglected pools/spas can pose a threat to public health. Mosquitoes need just a few tablespoons of standing water to breed. Swimming pools and spas that are not maintained can be an ideal source for hundreds of thousands of mosquitoes that may go on to become infected with West Nile virus. While it is not illegal to have a green swimming pool, it is illegal to breed mosquitoes. Below are some measures the District can enforce with regard to neglected pools/spas that breed mosquitoes.

First course of action upon notification of a pool with potential breeding: Contact is made with the homeowner and they are asked if we may inspect the pool.

If inspection is denied: A judge can issue a warrant to inspect the pool based on the technician's observations and/or mosquito trap data.

If mosquito breeding is found: An employee will treat the pool to eliminate mosquitoes free of charge. Resident/Tenant will be required to take action(s) to ensure further mosquito breeding does not occur. Possible remedies include;

1. Drain the pool (see http://www.cccleanwater.org/pdfs/Pool_Spa_Brochure.pdf); or call your local wastewater treatment authority.
2. Clean, filter, and maintain the pool in an operating condition;
3. Obtain and stock with mosquito-eating fish. Weekly inspections by the resident/tenant will be required to ensure the fish are present and working. Supplemental treatments of a pesticide for mosquito larvae control may also be needed.

2 weeks after treatment has occurred: An employee will return for a follow-up appointment to ensure mosquito breeding has been addressed. Significant progress toward this goal should be evident.

If resident/tenant of an inspected pool that was treated does nothing to correct the problem: A supervisor will post a 72 hour notice for resident/tenant to make corrections to eliminate mosquito breeding.

If the resident/tenant still refuses to cooperate: Fines will be issued. Administrative citations will be written by the District's Operations Manager or city Code Enforcement personnel. Fines begin at \$100 and can go as high as \$1,000/day. If fines are not paid, a lien on the property can occur.

In summary, the District would prefer to work with the resident/tenant to resolve the problem. It is not illegal to have a green pool, however, it is illegal to have a green pool that is breeding mosquitoes.