



Guidelines for Floating Pool Covers

With California continuing in an extreme drought condition, most water utilities have initiated voluntary and mandatory water conservation measures. The City of Santa Barbara has instituted pool cover requirements for all pools and spas while not in use. Significant water loss can occur from uncovered pools and covers are an effective means to reduce water evaporation. However, pool covers that are handled or used improperly can pose a significant safety risk. The following guidance is provided to pool operators and, if followed, will likely reduce the risk of accidents and potential drowning from floating pool cover entrapment.



1. Pool cover cannot be on the pool during posted hours for pool use.
2. The pool must be segregated from all dwelling units by an approved fence or enclosure. Floating pool covers are not permitted at courtyard pools or in other situations where there is no fence or enclosure between the living units and the pool.
3. The pool area must be locked to prevent any usage of the pool or deck enclosure when the cover is in place. The pool must be under the supervision of management personnel or other responsible person(s) who has sole access to the pool area when it is not open for use and the pool is covered. The pool and deck area may not be reopened for use until the pool cover has been removed from the pool and properly stored by the responsible party.
4. The pool cover, when not in use, must be completely removed, rolled up, and stored at least four feet away from the pool. In the case of spa pools, the cover must be physically removed from the immediate premises to prevent bathers from re-covering the spa pool.
5. Any portable storage reel must be located at least four feet from the water's edge during hours the pool is available for use. Permanent reel installations must be approved through an Environmental Health Services plan check process.
6. The pool cover must meet current American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) labeling requirements.

UNCOVER WHEN OPEN – COVER WHEN CLOSED

