

# Reopening Swimming Pools after Flood Water Contamination

All flood water is contaminated with harmful microorganisms and may be contaminated with dangerous chemicals. The following steps will help you clean and disinfect your pool basins and protect your clients.

## Steps to Reopening Your Pool Basins after Flood Water Contamination

1. Drain your pool basins.
2. Remove all the silt and organic matter, like dirt and leaves, from the pool basins.
3. Remove any remaining standing water using a wet vacuum.
4. Refill the basin with potable water and treat the water as if there had been a diarrheal accident and may contain *Cryptosporidium* oocysts. A CT value of 15300 is needed to remove destroy the oocysts, as lower chlorine concentrations are not effective.

(CT = **Concentration** of free chlorine in mg/L or ppm multiplied by **Time** in minutes)

For example: 20 mg/L x 765 mins = 15300

If you have questions about obtaining the sufficient CT value, please contact your local public health inspector.

5. Chemically balance the water.
6. Submit a bacteriological water sample.
7. Confirm with your local public health inspector that your bacteriological water sample was satisfactory.

For information on cleaning and disinfecting other surfaces such as change rooms and shower facilities, please refer to the **General Cleaning and Disinfecting of a Public Facility After a Flood** available on the AHS website at [www.albertahealthservices.ca/flood](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/flood).

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Contact us at 1-833-476-4743 or [submit a request online](#) at [ahs.ca/eph](http://ahs.ca/eph).

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