



Compliance to the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act

On May 13, prior to the opening of the 2009 swim season, Hillbrook Pool Inc. completed extensive renovations to the Main Pool and Kiddie Pool drainage infrastructure to insure the safety of all its patrons and to become compliant with the federally mandated Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. Compliance to this act drastically reduces the risk for bodily entrapment on pool drain covers or other areas in the pool where suction hazards may occur.

1. What is the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act?

Follow these links to read the federal law and interpretations thereof by the APSP (Association of Pool and Spa Professionals).

<http://www.poolsafety.gov/pssa.pdf>

<http://www.apsp.org/clientresources/documents/2Summaryof%20P-SSafetyAct.pdf>

http://www.apsp.org/clientresources/documents/VGB_brochure_LoRez_Jan13_2009.pdf

2. What steps were taken by Hillbrook Pool Inc. to become compliant to the VGB Act?

a. Main Pool:

The pool was drained in order to conduct this work. The two former non-compliant 12" square drain covers were replaced with VGB compliant 18" x 18" square drain covers manufactured by Aquastar (part #WAV18101). These covers are rated for a flow rate of 775 gallons/minute @ 1.4 feet per sec that comfortably accommodate the flow capacity of the current pump. In addition to replacing the drain covers, the former field designed sumps directly beneath each drain were enlarged from roughly 12" x 12" x 12" to approximately 18" x 18" x 14" in order to accommodate the larger drain covers while also comfortably accommodating the flow velocity specification for the new drain. Furthermore, all equalizer lines beneath each skimmer were capped and sealed internally to eliminate these potential suction hazards.

b. Kiddie Pool:

The pool was drained in order to conduct this work. The two former non-compliant 8" round drain covers and sumps were replaced with VGB compliant 8" round drain covers and sumps manufactured by Hayward (model #WG1053AVPAK2). These covers are rated for a maximum flow rate of 125 gallons per minute. Furthermore, the spacing between drains was increased from 2.5' on center to the specified 3.0' distance.

Both pools required excavation (jack-hammering) around the drains, debris removal, re-plumbing, pressure testing, re-plastering, etc. in accomplishing the above tasks.

3. What was the cost to meet the federal VGB mandate?

The total cost to bring our pools into compliance with the VGB Pool and Spa Safety Act was \$8620.00. While both pools were empty, the opportunity was taken to make some other repairs which had been deferred such as re-plastering of damaged walls, replacing tiles, repairing cracks, etc. These repair costs amounted to an additional \$3400. The water costs associated with refilling our 178,000 gallon Main Pool are not included in the previous figures.