

Disabling (Plugging) Skimmer Equalizer Lines

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- As industry is moving away from submerged suction outlets in new or remodeled pools, pool owners have also expressed a desire or need to eliminate skimmer equalizer line covers all together at existing pools. Some pool operators struggled last season to find properly adapted equalizer covers for pools already in operation. Some pools were permitted last season with equalizer lines plugged under skimmer baskets and the permits were conditioned temporarily allowing the single plug in the skimmer with undersized but current equalizer covers on the wall. It is our desire to completely eliminate those scenarios this season.
- Beginning immediately, pools may disable (plug) their skimmer equalizer lines.
- Disabling or plugging skimmer equalizer lines will eliminate the need for equalizer line covers and thus eliminate potential submerged suction hazards at many pools.
- Pools are not required to permanently disable or plug their skimmer equalizer lines. It is optional.
- Existing pools that would like to keep their equalizer lines covered with appropriate equalizer fittings may do so. The pool owner or operator will need to provide information regarding the manufacturer, model, maximum flow, life span and installation date on the Pool Drain Safety Compliance Data form that is submitted to the local health department each year.
- For pools that choose the option to permanently disable or plug their skimmer equalizer lines, it will eliminate the need to maintain and provide updated equalizer line covers.
- This applies to the equalizer line only, skimmers must remain operational and be equipped with weirs, baskets and appropriate lids on the deck level.
- For pools that disable or plug their skimmer equalizer lines, the owner or operator will need to indicate this on a new Pool Drain Safety Compliance Data form prior to permitting and attach information describing how the equalizer lines were disabled and the date on which it was completed.

Option #1 – Plugged at wall

- Plug with a solid plug that will not allow water to pass through or around it.
- Plug at the wall cannot protrude more than 2 inches from the finished pool wall surface.
- Plug should not be able to be removed by hand. A tool should be needed to remove the plug at the wall. Underwater adhesive or pipe glue can be used per label directions.
- Plug equalizer line under skimmer basket. (Plug the equalizer line, not the line to the pump.)

- There should be no stagnant water between the plugs. The water level of the pool will need to be lowered below the equalizer line opening below the skimmer to do this.

Option #2 – Plastered over at wall

- Plaster at wall should be flush as possible and cannot protrude more than 2 inches.
- Plug equalizer line under skimmer basket. (Plug the equalizer line, not the line to the pump.)
- There should be no stagnant water between the plaster and the plug. The water level of the pool will need to be lowered below the equalizer line opening below the skimmer to do this.

Note: If skimmer equalizer lines are disabled (plugged), then the owner/operator must be sure to maintain the pool's water level up to the mouth of the skimmers at all times to ensure that the pump maintains flooded suction. If the water level falls below the skimmer mouth, this can cause the pump to draw in air and the pump may fail. Autofill systems to maintain the pool water level are not required, but are recommended.