



# Community and Economic Development Environmental Health Division

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## DRAIN COVER REPLACEMENT PROCEDURES FOR POOLS AND SPAS

*California Health and Safety Code Section §116064.2*

The Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Pool and Spa Safety Act in California Assembly Bill 1020 (AB1020) requires pools and spas to be retrofitted with approved drain and equalizer line covers to prevent serious injury or death caused by suction hazards and physical entrapment. The Law also requires that every suction drain must have a split (dual) drain or be equipped with a safety vacuum release system (SVRS) or automatic pump shut-off system.

Each drain cover typically has a limited life expectancy ranging from three to ten years depending on manufacturer specifications. Submit plans for review and approval before a drain cover reaches its expiration date. Approval must be obtained prior to commencing installation of new covers.

**To proceed with the drain cover and any new pool equipment replacement, submit all the following required documents as a package to the Madera County Environmental Health Division (MCEHD):**

1. Provide Specification Cut Sheets of each new equipment. (Do not perform any work during this time.) Here are expiration time frames for the most common VGB drain covers:

Manufacturer	Life Expectancy
<b>Drain Safe</b>	Three (3) years
<b>AquaStar</b>	Five (5) years
<b>Paramount SDX</b>	Five (5) years
<b>Waterway</b>	Seven (7) years
<b>Hayward</b>	Seven (7) years
<b>Lawson Aquatics</b>	Ten (10) years

2. Complete the Recreation Health Plan Review Application.
3. Provide Site Plan.
4. Pay the Plan Review Fee.

A licensed contractor shall perform the work and complete the [AB1020 Compliance Form](#). An inspection will be done to verify the drain cover during the routine inspection. Please retain all relevant documents and make note of the expiration date(s) to ensure timely replacement and compliance with the VGB Pool and Spa Safety Act.

Note: If a body of water currently has a single main drain with a SVRS or an unblockable channel drain, the single drain must be split and brought up to current code at the next replastering of the pool or spa shell.

Please contact the MCEHD Recreational Health Program at (559)675-7823 option 2 or [EHFOOD-REC@maderacounty.com](mailto:EHFOOD-REC@maderacounty.com) if you have any questions.

# VGB COVER REPLACEMENT FLOW CHART

