

Restoring flood-affected domestic swimming and spa pools

Fact sheet

Domestic swimming and spa pools affected by flood waters will require restoration before they can be safely used again. Swimming and spa pools contaminated with flood waters will likely contain harmful pathogens and therefore will not be suitable for swimming. In addition, they may become breeding sites for disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Primary considerations

It is important to first assess the structure of your swimming or spa pool and the surrounding environment to ensure it is safe to begin restoration works.

Pool Fencing

In Queensland domestic swimming and spa pools are required to be fenced to prevent unsupervised access by young children. If your swimming or spa pool fencing has been damaged, you may be required to ensure any repairs made meet new fencing requirements. For further information, please refer to the Queensland Government's pool fencing information website or contact your local council.

Electrical Safety

If you know or suspect that electrical equipment associated with your swimming or spa pool has been affected by flood waters, it is recommended that it is inspected and declared fit for use by a licensed electrician before attempting restoration.

Mosquitoes

Flood affected swimming and spa pools that are yet to be restored may provide ideal breeding sites for mosquitoes capable of carrying diseases. If you are unable to readily restore your swimming or spa pool, actions should be taken, as soon as is safe to do so, to prevent mosquitoes from breeding in these waters.

Restoring water quality

Swimming and spa pools affected by flood waters will require emptying before further restoration can begin. Do not attempt to use your pool filter to remediate the water. If you have an in-ground pool, you should not attempt to empty it while the surrounding ground is still saturated. Emptying water before the surrounding ground has dried out may result in damage to the structure of the pool and associated plumbing. Contact your local pool shop for advice on when you can pump out your swimming or spa pool without causing damage to the structure.

Before you remove the contaminated water from your swimming or spa pool you should contact your local council in relation to disposal options as certain regulations may apply.

Once your pool has been emptied you will need to clean and effectively sanitise the entire pool, surrounding structures, associated plumbing and treatment equipment. Any equipment associated with the operation or use of the pool will also require inspection and possibly replacement if damage or flood water ingress is evident.

It is recommended that you contact your local pool shop to determine the most appropriate method of cleaning, sanitising, re-filling and re-establishing appropriate water quality to ensure future use of the swimming or spa pool will not pose a health risk to bathers.

Further information

- Queensland Government's pool fencing information website
www.hpw.qld.gov.au/construction/BuildingPlumbing/PoolSafety/PoolFencesSafetyBarriers/Pages/default.aspx
- Contact 13 QGOV (13 74 68) for your nearest Public Health Unit.