



FAQ About Facility Operations

April 9, 2020

Q Can a therapy pool, licensed as a public pool but within a medical facility, be used for necessary medical treatment?

Single-user therapy pools in medical facilities are allowed to operate as long as the use is part of necessary medical treatment, and *only* the patient is in the pool. Operators must ensure that the pool is properly operating and has proper disinfectant level, in addition to any other hospital infection control measures that might be in place. The facility must limit use of a therapy pool within a medical facility to one person.

Q Can our hotel or motel allow a Jacuzzi that is within a guest room or suite to be used by guests staying in that room?

Yes. In-room, fill-and-drain Jacuzzis are not considered public pools and may be used. They should be maintained as follows:

Clean:

1. Install the drain cover and fill the tub with warm water¹ to a level that is at least several inches above the jets.
2. Add detergent² to the water and let it dissolve.
3. Turn the jets on a low setting for at least 10 minutes³ to circulate the detergent solution through the hoses.
4. Turn off the jets and scrub all tub surfaces.
5. Drain the tub.

Rinse:

1. Fill the tub a second time with warm water to a level that is several inches above the jets.
2. Turn on the jets to circulate water and remove the detergent/debris from the hoses.
3. Turn off the jets and drain the tub basin.
4. Remove any visible debris and rinse the tub surfaces.

Sanitize:

1. Reinstall all jet covers and other recirculation covers.
2. Fill the tub a third time with warm water to a level that is several inches above the jets.
3. Add sanitizer to the tub and allow it to circulate through the jets for 5-10 minutes.⁴ Sanitize all surfaces of the tub area according to manufacturer's instructions.
4. Drain the tub and let the surfaces air dry. Do not rinse off the sanitizer.

Common detergents: Powder or liquids designed to safely clean grease residues from fiberglass, acrylic, porcelain, ceramic tile and grout. Formulated not to damage chrome, stainless steel or copper.



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2811 Agriculture Dr., P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708

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Common sanitizers: Chlorine bleach, quaternary ammonium, iodine, acid or hydrogen peroxides formulated specifically for jetted tub sanitizing.

¹ Water temperature must comply with the manufacturer's specifications listed on the label of the detergent.

² Amount of detergent must comply with the manufacturer's specifications listed on the label of the detergent.

³ Amount of contact time the sanitizer must be circulated depends on the manufacturer's specifications listed on the label of the sanitizer.

⁴ The sanitizer concentration depends on the manufacturer's specifications and recommendations listed on the label of the sanitizer.

Q Is there specific guidance for shutting down whirlpools?

Yes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides guidance from the Model Aquatic Health Code:

1. Clean accessible surfaces, scrubbing away slime and biofilm.
2. Apply a biocidal shock treatment.
3. Drain and remove as much water as possible from the system.
4. Remove filters.
5. Leave filters to dry.*
6. Keep the hot tub/spa as dry as possible, protecting it from external water sources (e.g., hoses)

* Clean filters before reuse, and replace filters/filter media as recommended by the manufacturer.



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