



GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF DIAPERS AT PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health does not regulate the use of swimming pools by non-toilet trained children. Individual facilities may make rules regarding the use of their pool by babies and diapered toddlers. Use of a main pool by non-toilet trained children is discouraged, particularly if a wading pool is available.

When non-toilet trained children are allowed the use of any pool, the following guidelines apply:

1. A clean, close-fitting diaper with a plastic outer covering that has elastic at the waist and leg openings is recommended. Disposable swim diapers are suitable but are not required. Diaper changing stations are recommended in men's and women's bathroom facilities, and diaper changing should be done at these stations. Caregivers should wash their hands with soap and warm water after each diaper change.

NOTE: Swim diapers, or diapers of any kind, do not prevent fecal bacteria from entering the pool water. Maintenance of proper chlorine residual in the pool is essential.

2. A bathing suit or plastic pants are recommended over the diaper. This is mainly for extra protection against leakage in the event of a bowel movement.
3. The child should be closely supervised by a parent or caregiver and the diaper should be changed frequently.
4. No person with a known case of diarrhea is to use any public pool.
5. If feces escape the diaper and enter the pool water, or in the event fecal contamination from any source occurs, the pool operator is required to clear the pool of swimmers and follow the Fecal Contamination Policy from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/swimming/pools/fecal-incident-response-recommendations.pdf>

Note: Solid stool and diarrhea incidents require different procedures and closure times.

If you have any questions, call Lucy Goszkowski, Pool Program Specialist, Division of Environmental Health, at 410-222-7217.