



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

**DIVISION FOR REGULATORY SERVICES
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER SAFETY SECTION
POLICY, STANDARDS, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT
PUBLIC SANITATION AND RETAIL FOOD SAFETY GROUP**

**Sign Requirements for Public Swimming Pools and Spas
Effective January 1, 2021**

§265.201

Figure 25 TAC §265.201(j)(5)	
"WARNING-NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY" (Where no lifeguard required or provided.)	4 inches
"NO DIVING" and International no diving symbol (Where no lifeguard required or provided.)	4 inches
"IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, DIAL 911"	4 inches
Precise Location of the Pool on or with the Emergency Phone (address, or directions, or GPS location, or building number, as appropriate)	Minimum 1-inch
Hours of Operation	Minimum 1-inch
Directions to and Location of Emergency Phone if Phone Not Visible in Pool Yard	Minimum 2-inches
Maximum User Load Limit	Minimum 2-inches
"PETS IN THE POOL ARE PROHIBITED"	Minimum 2-inches
"DO NOT SWIM IF YOU HAVE BEEN ILL WITH DIARRHEA WITHIN THE PAST 2 WEEKS"	Minimum 2-inches
"CHANGING DIAPERS WITHIN 6 FEET OF THE POOL IS PROHIBITED"	Minimum 2-inches
"GLASS ITEMS NOT ALLOWED IN THE POOL YARD"	Minimum 2-inches
"PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 14 MUST NOT BE IN THE POOL WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION"	Minimum 2-inches
"EXTENDED BREATH HOLDING ACTIVITIES ARE DANGEROUS AND PROHIBITED"	Minimum 2-inches

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(j) Signs for pools.

(1) Signs shall be in the pool yard, securely mounted as applicable, and readily visible to the pool user. Signs shall be posted within the pool yard unless otherwise stated within this subchapter.

(2) Sign panels shall be durable for the weather conditions. The message surface shall be clean and smooth and shall readily accept paint or precut lettering adhesives.

(3) Theming or artwork applied to signs shall not invade the message panel. Signs shall have a distinct border.

(4) Multiple signs may be used, or the messages may be combined on one sign.

(5) Safety signs for pools constructed on or after the effective date of this subchapter or safety signs that are replaced at pools constructed prior to the effective date of this subchapter shall be in compliance with Figure 25 TAC §265.201(j)(5).

There is no (6)

(7) In areas of Texas where the majority of citizens are non-English speaking, in addition to signs in English, signs and other written warnings or information required by these standards may be posted in the predominant language.

(8) Variations of the language of the required safety signs in Figure 25 TAC §265.201(j)(5) are allowed if the language of the safety signs is substantially equivalent to the language in Figure 25 TAC §265.201(j)(5) and if local regulatory officials that regulate public swimming pools and spas approve the variations before the sign is posted in the pool yard.

(k) Instructional signs for pools such as wave pools, slide pools, and other pools requiring additional instructions or information. Instructional signs in pools and spas constructed or renovated on or after the effective date of this subchapter shall be provided and inform guests of specific instructions for the use of the ride. Instructional signs shall be located along the queue approaching the ride dispatch area. Lettering shall be a minimum of 1-inch in height. Signs for waterslides shall indicate riding instructions, warnings, and requirements in accordance with

§265.186. Islands in Pools and Spas Constructed on or After the Effective Date of This Subchapter.

(a) An island not more than 18 inches in width along the entire length of the island and not designed for walking on, shall have no stairs, ladders or bridges to the island that can be accessed by users.

(b) An island designed to be walked on by lifeguards shall be a minimum of 18 inches in width along the entire length of the island.

(c) An island not designed or intended for walking on by pool or spa users shall have signs stating "No Entry" in letters minimum of 2 inches in height.

§265.208

(e) Required spa signs. Signs for spas constructed on or after the effective date of this subchapter or safety signs that are replaced at spas constructed before the effective date of this subchapter shall be securely mounted and readily visible to spa users and shall be inside the spa enclosure as required in Figure 25 TAC §265.208(e) Required Spa Signs. The signs can be combined on one sign or posted individually. Variations of the language of the required safety signs in Figure 25 TAC §265.208(e) are allowed if the language of the safety signs is substantially equivalent to the language in Figure 25 TAC §265.208(e) and if local regulatory officials that regulate public swimming pools and spas approve the variations before the sign is posted in the pool or spa yard.

Figure: 25 TAC §265.208(e)	
"WARNING – NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY" (if no lifeguard is provided or required)	4 inches
"DO NOT USE THE SPA IF THE WATER TEMPERATURE IS ABOVE 104 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT"	Minimum 1-inch
Maximum User Load	Minimum 1-inch
Location of the Nearest emergency phone or device.	Minimum 2-inches
EMERGENCY SPA SHUTOFF	Minimum 2-inches
"DO NOT SWIM IF YOU HAVE BEEN ILL WITH DIARRHEA WITHIN THE PAST 2 WEEKS"	Minimum 2-inches
"PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 14 MUST NOT BE IN THE SPA WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION"	Minimum 2-inches
"PETS IN THE SPA ARE PROHIBITED"	Minimum 2-inches

(o) Emergency shutoff switch required for spas only.

(1) An emergency shutoff switch shall be provided to disconnect power to circulation and jet system pumps and air blowers in a spa.

(2) Emergency switches shall be accessible to users, located within sight of the spa and located not less than 5 feet, but not greater than 10 feet from the inside walls of the spa.

(3) A sign notifying users of the location of the spa emergency shutoff switch shall be posted in a location that is visible from the spa and that meets the requirements in §265.208(e) of this subchapter (relating to Certain Requirements for Spas).

§265.198(e)(3)

(3) When the drinking water is not located in the pool or spa yard, a sign with letters a minimum of 1 inch in height shall be posted so that it is visible to users that informs the users of the location of the drinking water.

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(h) Movable bottom pool and spa depth markers. Pools or spas with movable floors shall have a sign indicating movable floor and varied water depth. The posted water depth shall be the water level to the floor of the pool or spa measured vertically 3 feet from the wall of the pool or spa. A sign shall be posted to inform the user that the pool or spa has a varied depth and refer to the sign showing the current depth.