



2024 Variance Report

Summary of Variances to WAC 246-260

This is the annual report to the State Board of Health providing a summary of the variances processed in 2024 as stipulated in WAC 246-260-201(2). Under this authority, the Department of Health (DOH) and local health officers review and approve or deny variances to the design, construction, and operation requirements related to water recreation facilities. The approved variances reflect an applicant's ability to provide adequate documentation that the variance to the rule is consistent with the overall intent of the chapter and our goal of providing a safe environment for users.

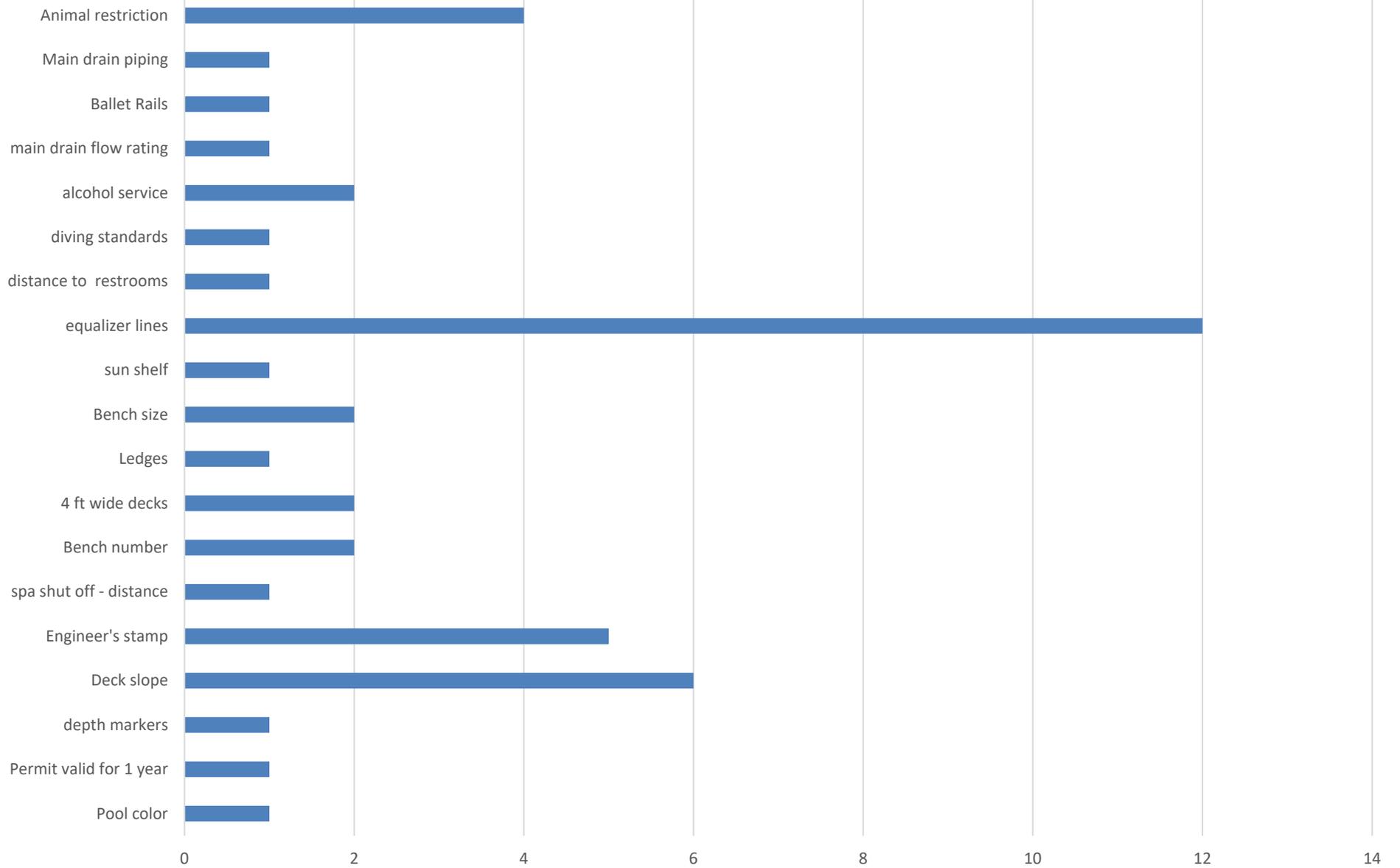
Annual reports were received from 36 of the 39 local health jurisdictions. Six local health jurisdictions processed variance requests: Clark County Public Health (CCPH), Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD), Public Health Seattle King County (PHSKC), Snohomish County Health Department (SCHD), Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD), and Kitsap Public Health (KPH) in addition to those processed by DOH. Forty-six variances were approved in 2024: CCPH granted 2; PHSKC granted 14; SRHD granted 5; SCHD granted 1; KPH granted 1 and DOH granted 20.

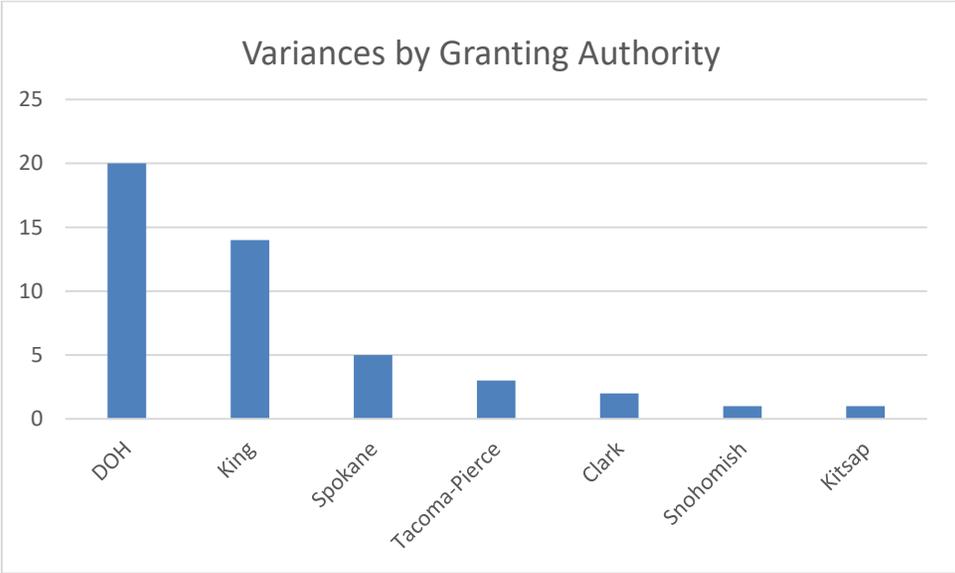
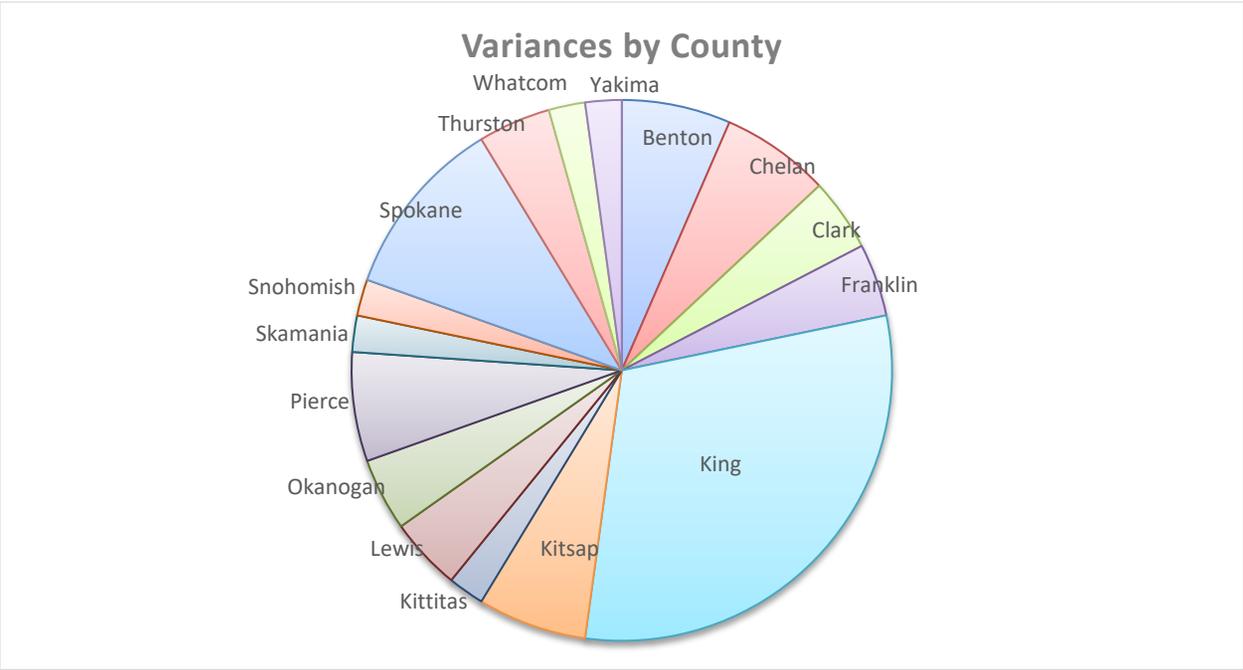
The most common variance in 2024 was for modifying skimmer equalizer lines to comply with suction entrapment prevention requirements. Twelve variances were granted for removal of skimmer equalizer lines (WAC 246-260-031(8)(d)(iii)). Six variances were granted to allow pool deck slopes of less than ½ inch per foot; these were granted to comply with ADA access requirements. Five variances were granted to allow for simple projects to be reviewed without the need for engineered plans. And 4 variances were granted in Spokane County, where end-of-season dog swims continue to be popular, to allow animals in pools.

This report is not required to include variances granted by the Board of Health. In a desire to be thorough, we remind the board that 6 variances for water features regulated under Chapter 246-262 WAC, Recreational Water Contact Facilities, were also granted by the BOH.

The following pages provide additional details on variances granted under Chapter 246-260 WAC, Water Recreation Facilities in 2024.

Variations by Type





Variance Details

County	Granting Entity	Name	WAC	Descriptor	Mitigation Proposed	Action
Lewis	DOH	Pleasant Valley Christian Camp	WAC 246-260-031(6)	Pool Color	Lifeguards	Approved
Skamania	DOH	Tenzen	WAC 246-260-021(7)	DOH may grant construction permit renewals which are valid for one year.	Final construction permit extension.	Approved
Chelan	DOH	Wenatchee Valley YMCA	WAC 246-260-041(8)(b)	Pool depth markings located on the horizontal surface of pool coping or deck of pools within eighteen inches of the water's edge, easily readable while standing on the deck facing the water, in numbers at least four inches high	1/2 inch extra room needed for a gutter system designed to provide improved indoor air quality.	Approved
Benton	DOH	Affinity at Badger Mountain	WAC 246-260-031(3)(b)	Minimum slope requirement of 2%.	meets ADA	Approved
Thurston	DOH	Tanglewilde Apartments	WAC 246-260-021(1)(b)	Variance from engineering stamp requirement for proposed work	meets limited scope standard	Approved
Benton	DOH	Crosspointe Apartments	WAC 246-260-021(1)(b)	Plans stamped and signed by and engineer or architect. CR completed by an engineer or architect.	meets limited scope standard	Approved
Kitsap	DOH	Ridgetop Apartments	WAC 246-260-051(5)(e)	A clearly marked emergency shutoff switch for turning off all pumps. The switch must be within twenty feet of each spa, accessible to the public, and triggering an audible alarm.	sign posted and distance is MAHC compliant.	Approved

Kittitas	DOH	Unity Park	WAC 246-260-031(3)(b)	Walking surfaces sloping less than 2%	ADA compliant	Approved
Yakima	DOH	Aquatic Center at MLK Jr. Park	WAC 246-260-031(3)(b)	A minimum 2% for all walking surfaces	ADA compliant	Approved
Chelan	DOH	The Springs	WAC 246-260-031(3)(b)	A minimum 2% for all walking surfaces	ADA compliant	Approved
Chelan	DOH	Wenatchee Valley YMCA	WAC 246-260-091(2)(b)	bench size limit	Bench designed for instructional area - lifeguards provided.	Approved
Lewis	DOH	Maple Grove Resort	WAC 246-260-021(1)(b)	Require engineer/architect's stamp on plans and completed construction report.	meets limited scope standard	Approved
Whatcom	DOH	Cobblestone Hotel & Suites	WAC 246-260-031(3)(b)	Minimum slope requirement of 2%.	ADA compliant	Approved
Kitsap	DOH	Parkwood Community Pool	WAC 246-260-041(2)(a)	requires owners to design and maintain walking deck surfaces that must be at least four feet wide around the entire perimeter of pool.	Decks on 3 sides. Allowed for 1 year.	Approved
Benton	DOH	Hills West Recreation Club	WAC 246-260-021(1)(b)	Engineer/architect prepared plans with signature and stamp.	meets limited scope standard	Approved
Thurston	DOH	Wilderness West Apartments	WAC 246-260-021(1)(b)	Requires plans and specifications be prepared, stamped and signed by an engineer.	Scope of work include new finishes in restroom and walking path, engineer/architect stamp not required based upon scope of work.	Approved
Franklin	DOH	Affinity at Broadmoor	WAC 246-260-031(3)(b)	deck slope	ADA compliant	Approved
Franklin	DOH	Affinity at Broadmoor	WAC 246-260-031(3)(b)	deck slope	ADA compliant	Approved

Okanogan	DOH	Hobzek Air B&B	WAC 246-260-091(2)	Only a single bench is allowed and 5% of the perimeter of a free form pool	benches marked as require in code. Use restricted to small groups renting the house.	Approved
Okanogan	DOH	Hobzek Air B&B	WAC 246-260-091(3)	Ledges are only allowed i general use pools when they meet FINA rest ledge requirements.	ledges are structural. and comply with MAHC. Ledges will be marked. pool use restricted to small groups renting the home.	Approved

Spokane Regional Health District

County	Granting Entity	Name	WAC	Descriptor	Mitigation Proposed	Action
Spokane	SRHD	Spokane Parks & Rec - Comstock Pool, 2900 S. Howard, Spokane	WAC 246-260-151	Restriction on animals in pools	Conditions: 1) lifeguards. 2) No humans in the water. 3) disinfection residuals must conform to WAC 246-260, 4) the recirculation system must remain on. 5) dogs must be evaluated by a veterinarian. 6) dogs must be bathed. 7) all dogs must be older than six months and vaccinated against rabies.	Approved
Spokane	SRHD	Spokane Parks & Rec - Liberty Pool, 500 S. Pittsburg, Spokane	WAC 246-260-151	Restriction on animals in pools	Conditions: 1) lifeguards. 2) No humans in the water. 3) disinfection residuals must conform to WAC 246-260, 4) the recirculation system must remain on. 5) dogs must be evaluated by a veterinarian. 6) dogs must be bathed. 7) all dogs must be older than six months and vaccinated against rabies.	approved

Spokane	SRHD	Spokane Parks & Rec - Shadle Pool, 2005 W. Wellesley, Spokane	WAC 246-260-151	Restriction on animals in pools	Conditions: 1) lifeguards. 2) No humans in the water. 3) disinfection residuals must conform to WAC 246-260, 4) the recirculation system must remain on. 5) dogs must be evaluated by a veterinarian. 6) dogs must be bathed. 7) all dogs must be older than six months and vaccinated against rabies.	approved
Spokane	SRHD	City of Spokane Valley - Mission Pool, 11123 E. Mission Ave, Spokane Valley	WAC 246-260-151	Restriction on animals in pools	Conditions: 1) lifeguards. 2) No humans in the water. 3) disinfection residuals must conform to WAC 246-260, 4) the recirculation system must remain on. 5) dogs must be evaluated by a veterinarian. 6) dogs must be bathed. 7) all dogs must be older than six months and vaccinated against rabies.	Approved
Spokane	SRHD	City of Cheney - Cheney Aquatic Center, 115 N. 8th Street, Cheney, WA 99004	WAC 246-260-031(3)(b)	Minimum deck slope	Meets ADA requirements are for a maximum of ¼" per foot of slope. The deck is to be flooded during the pre-occupancy inspection to ensure there is no ponding of water on the deck.	Approved
Spokane	SRHD	Spokane Parks & Rec - Comstock Pool, 2900 S. Howard, Spokane	WAC 246-260-151	Restriction on animals in pools	Conditions: 1) lifeguards. 2) No humans in the water. 3) disinfection residuals must conform to WAC 246-260, 4) the recirculation system must remain on. 5) dogs	Approved

					must be evaluated by a veterinarian. 6) dogs must be bathed. 7) all dogs must be older than six months and vaccinated against rabies.	
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Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

County	Granting Entity	Name	WAC	Descriptor	Mitigation Proposed	Action
Pierce	Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department	Canterwood Golf & Country Club	WAC 246-260-131(3)	Alcohol service	1. Facility must have a written operations plan 2. Food/alcohol only in the designated eating area. 3. Total bather capacity limited to 120 people. 4. The pool deck must be clearly marked A minimum pool deck surface area of 1,920 square feet in which no food/beverage consumption may occur. 5. Signage must be posted describing the food and alcohol consumption rules. 6. Annual notification regarding alcohol rules sent to members 7. Alcohol rules violators must immediately be removed from the pool area and may have pool privileges revoked. 8. No glass containers. Alcohol service is only offered from 12 – 6 pm during the pool season.	Approved
Pierce	Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department	Eatonville High School	WAC 246-260-031(8)(e)(iv)(D)	main drain flow rating requirement	Flow rate may never exceed 576 gpm.	Approved
Pierce	Tacoma-Pierce County	Patriots Landing	WAC 246-260-091(8) 031(8)(d)(i) 031(8)(e)(iv)(A)		1. Pool ballet rails. a. Special rules required b. "No diving" markers required	Approved

	Health Department		031(14) 031(8)(d)(iii) 031(8)(e)(ii)		2. Pool skimmer must be set at 85-90% of flow through the skimmers 3. Equipment room floor drain. a. spills must be cleaned immediately. b. A spill kit is required. 4. Spa autofill/equalizer. a. Water level in the spa must be inspected visually every day and replenished as needed.	
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Public Health Seattle King County

County	Granting Entity	Name	WAC	Descriptor	Mitigation Proposed	Action
King	SKCPH	Cedar Heights	246-260-031(8)(d)(iii)	Skimmers must be equipped with a device, such as an equalizer line, to prevent air lock in the recirculation suction line. If equalizer lines are used, they must be protected with a suction outlet that conforms to the suction fitting standard	Plugged equalizer lines at skimmer basket and wall of pool. Plaster pool to match pool wall surface. Operator must monitor and maintain water level in pool at all times.	Approved
King	SKCPH	Centenial Towers Pool	246-260-031(8)(d)(iii)	Skimmers must be equipped with a device, such as an equalizer line, to prevent air lock in the recirculation suction line. If equalizer lines are used, they must be protected with a suction outlet that conforms to the suction fitting standard	Plugged equalizer lines at skimmer basket and wall of pool. Plaster pool to match pool wall surface. Operator must monitor and maintain water level in pool at all times.	Approved
King	SKCPH	Centenial Towers Spa	246-260-031(8)(d)(iii)	Skimmers must be equipped with a device, such as an equalizer line, to prevent air lock in the recirculation suction line. If equalizer lines are used, they must be protected with a suction outlet that conforms to the suction fitting standard	Plugged equalizer lines at skimmer basket and wall of pool. Plaster pool to match pool wall surface. Operator must monitor and maintain water level in pool at all times.	Approved

King	SKCPH	Echo Mountain pool	246-260-031 (8)(d)(iii)	Skimmers must be equipped with a device, such as an equalizer line, to prevent air lock in the recirculation suction line. If equalizer lines are used, they must be protected with a suction outlet that conforms to the suction fitting standard	Plugged equalizer lines at skimmer basket and wall of pool. Plaster pool to match pool wall surface. Operator must monitor and maintain water level in pool at all times.	Approved
King	SKCPH	Grandview Spa	246-260-031 (8)(d)(iii)	Skimmers must be equipped with a device, such as an equalizer line, to prevent air lock in the recirculation suction line. If equalizer lines are used, they must be protected with a suction outlet that conforms to the suction fitting standard	Plugged equalizer lines at skimmer basket and wall of pool. Plaster pool to match pool wall surface. Operator must monitor and maintain water level in pool at all times.	Approved
King	SKCPH	Grandview Pool	246-260-031 (8)(d)(iii)	Skimmers must be equipped with a device, such as an equalizer line, to prevent air lock in the recirculation suction line.	Plugged equalizer lines. Operator must monitor and maintain water level in pool at all times.	Approved
King	SKCPH	Klanhanie Pool	246-260-031 (8)(d)(iii)	Skimmers must be equipped with a device, such as an equalizer line, to prevent air lock in the recirculation suction line.	Plugged equalizer lines. Operator must monitor and maintain water level in pool at all times.	Approved
King	SKCPH	Standard Pool	246-260-031 (8)(d)(iii)	Skimmers must be equipped with a device, such as an equalizer line, to prevent air lock in the recirculation suction line.	Plugged equalizer lines. Operator must monitor and maintain water level in pool at all times.	Approved
King	SKCPH	Standard Spa	246-260-031 (8)(d)(iii)	Skimmers must be equipped with a device, such as an equalizer line, to prevent air lock in the recirculation suction line.	Plugged equalizer lines. Operator must monitor and maintain water level in pool at all times.	Approved

King	SKCPH	Lake Union Summit Apartments Spa	WAC 246-260-031(21)(f)	(f) Restroom facilities must be located convenient to, and no further than one hundred feet away from, the main pool.	Full restroom and shower located 115 feet from spa via elevator. Must have slip resistant corridor to restroom, and posted map of location.	Approved
King	SKCPH	One Pacific Towers	246-260-031 (8)(d)(iii)	Skimmers must be equipped with a device, such as an equalizer line, to prevent air lock in the recirculation suction line. If equalizer lines are used, they must be protected with a suction outlet that conforms to the suction fitting standard	Plugged equalizer lines. Operator must monitor and maintain water level in pool at all times.	Approved
King	SKCPH	Regency Newcastle	246-260-031 (8)(d)(iii)	Skimmers must be equipped with a device, such as an equalizer line, to prevent air lock in the recirculation suction line.	Plugged equalizer lines. Operator must monitor and maintain water level in pool at all times.	Approved
King	SKCPH	Regency Newcastle	WAC 246-260-041(2)(a)	For pools less than fifteen hundred square feet, walking deck surfaces must be at least four feet wide around the entire perimeter of pools;	No furniture placed along wall behind double handrails. Buddy system in place. A minimum of two people in pool area whenever pool is in use. Emergency equipment provided at all times.	Approved
King	SKCPH	Wedgwood Swim Pool	WAC 246-260-041(5)(b)	Diving wells to meet CNCA minimum dimension requirements for when the user would enter from the deck level over 12 inches from water level or has a platform or diving board provided at a height less than 1/2 meter.	Reduction in length of diving board and height of stand, will provide additional bather safety. Diving board is not used for competitive diving.	Approved

Clark County Public Health

County	Granting Entity	Name	WAC	Descriptor	Mitigation Proposed	Action
Clark	CCPH	Goldfish Swim School	WAC 246-260-091(2)(b)	..."[benches] May not exceed twenty percent of the length of the side it is located on or five percent of the perimeter of a free form pool;"	A submerged bench extends along the entire 75ft length of the pool on both sides. Primary use of pool is for swimming lessons; underwater benches aid in instruction. Leading edge of bench will be marked with 2 rows of continuous contrasting color marking for visibility. Signage on the deck will indicate "Bench Caution" at every depth marker location to note it's presence to pool users. Additional signage noting the bench will be posted on pool enclosure walls.	Approved
Clark	CCPH	Prose Apartments	WAC 246-260-091	Request for Baja/Sunshelves - not addressed in WAC. Closest reference is for underwater bench or ledge.	Plan approved following MAHC 4.5.18 requirements for underwater shelves	Approved

Snohomish County Health Department

County	Granting Entity	Name	WAC	Descriptor	Mitigation Proposed	Action
Snohomish	SCHD	Aqua Tots	WAC 246-260-091(2)	A single bench or seat that is recessed from the general wall of the swimming pool may be built into the shallow area of the pool	1. Each bench needs to be designed to meet all applicable requirements in chapter WAC 246-260-091(2)(a, c, & d) and the 2023 CDC Model Aquatic Health Code (4.5.16). 2. Detailed lifeguarding plan	Approved

Kitsap Public Health

County	Granting Entity	Name	WAC	Descriptor	Mitigation Proposed	Action
Kitsap	Kitsap Public Health	Kitsap Golf and Country Club	WAC 246-260-131(3)	To allow the facility to have alcohol service at the pool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Alcohol consumption is not allowed in water or in the perimeter of the decking. •Consumption must occur at designated tables away from the pool area and signs must be posted to denote that area. A sign should be posted to denote that area. •Facility must notify users of the increased risk of drowning associated with alcohol consumption. A sign must be posted stating the dangers of alcohols usage associated with swimming. 	Approved