InterNACHI® Pool & Spa Inspection Checklist

This basic inspection checklist is part of InterNACHI’s free, online “How to Inspect Pools and Spas” Course at [**www.nachi.org/pool-spa-course**.](http://www.nachi.org/pool-spa-course)

To have adequate and functional water flow through the pool system, there are several things that need to be in good shape:

* There has to be enough water in the pool or spa. Check the level of the water.
* There shouldn’t be any water leaks at the plumbing connections or equipment.
* All of the valves should be fully open.
* There shouldn’t be any trapped air in the system. Air at the filter tank should be purged routinely.
* The skimmer and main drain should be clear of blockages and debris. Skimmers require cleaning.
* The strainer pot at the pump should be cleaned routinely.
* There might be an imbalance of the water chemistry, causing scaling. Check for scale-causing clogging or restriction of water flow.
* The heater should be on and activated. The gas shut-off valve should be open. The switch should be on. Check for a pilot light, ignition, or flame at the fuel-fired heater. Check the level in the propane storage tank.
* The thermostat should be connected, active, and set properly.

The following inspection checklist was adapted from the guidelines recommended by the National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF). Use the checklist as a starting point in developing your own checklist that fits your inspection procedure and needs.

The inspector should check for the following:

* Adequate fencing, gates, barriers, alarms, and/or other protective devices are installed.
* Adequate storage space is provided for equipment.
* Decks around pool are not cluttered.
* The pool is covered when not in use.
* Surfaces leading to the pool, including the deck and steps, are slip-resistant.
* Decks on all sides of the pool meet minimum safety standards.
* The deck is separated from the pool wall perimeter.
* There are no standing puddles on the deck.
* All ladders, stanchions, chairs, and rails have treads with a contrasting color coating or tile on both the top and vertical rise.

* No unpleasant odors or irritating fumes are apparent.
* No physical damage is apparent at the pool equipment.
* Main drain grates are bolted securely to the pool’s bottom.
* Grates are visible from the deck, with no apparent damage.
* Drain covers are installed.
* Water return inlets are installed.
* The pool is vacuumed daily.
* No debris is visible. The water is clean.
* There’s no discoloration of the water.
* There is no visible algae growth.
* The pool water is tested at the frequency required or desired.
* All water quality and chemical levels were within acceptable ranges as of the most current test.
* Bacteriological water analysis is performed on a regular basis.
* The water temperature is maintained within acceptable levels and is appropriate for the primary activities being conducted in the pool.
* The water temperature has been measured and recorded.
* The type of heater is identified.
* The efficiency and BTU ratings of the heater are identified.
* The heater is installed on a level, non-combustible base.
* Safety devices are installed on the heater.
* The thermostat is located and identified.
* Check valves between the heater and filter are installed.
* Bonding and grounding are visible.
* The heater is installed downstream of the pump and filter.
* A solar-heating system is installed.
* The solar-heating system type is identified.
* The solar-heating system is active.
* Pool chemicals are stored a safe distance away from the heater.
* Adequate clearances around the heater are maintained.
* Coping stones and tiles are not chipped, cracked or loose.
* The pool shell appears smooth, without readily visible defects.
* There is no visible surface staining.
* The water level appears to be maintained to allow for the removal of floating debris.
* The water level appears at the proper height to allow continuous overflow of water into the gutters or skimmers.
* Skimmer weirs, skimmer baskets, deck covers, and flow-adjustment devices are installed.
* Lights are installed and are operational.
* The type, number and wattage of deck lighting are identified.
* The number of underwater lights is noted.
* GFCIs are installed.
* Electrical wiring is not passing directly over the pool or spa.
* Hose bibs are installed near the pool.
* No apparent defects or signs of repair are observed at the diving board.

* The manufacturer of the diving board is visible on the board itself.
* The centrifugal pump is secured to its base and is operating quietly.
* The hair and lint strainer basket is clean of debris.
* The type of pipe has been identified.
* Pipes and fittings are not leaking.
* Pipes are supported adequately.
* Pipes are not showing signs of calcification, corrosion or deterioration.
* Air pressure-relief valves are installed on all pressure filter tanks.
* Filter tanks are accessible.
* The filter’s brand is identified.
* A clean sight glass or visual outfall of at least 3 feet has been provided.
* The pressurized filter tanks and hair and lint traps are not leaking and are properly sealed.
* All piping, filters and components that are part of the system are labeled, tagged, color-coded, or otherwise identified.
* A spa is installed.
* The spa is operational.
* A spa cover is installed.
* No physical damage is apparent at the spa.
* A spa timer is installed and not reachable by a spa user.
* The emergency shut-off switch for the spa is installed and clearly labeled.
* The spa appears clean and adequately maintained.

