

Wisconsin Recreational Facilities FACT SHEET



Virginia Graeme Baker Act—Drain Covers



VGBA devices have life spans

Did you know that December 2013 marks the five-year anniversary of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Act? This Act requires all commercial pools and spas to be equipped with anti-entrapment drain covers and devices.

Why do these devices have life spans?

Chemicals, UV light, and normal wear will break down the cover, fastening system, and other components, which can cause a potential entrapment hazard. It is important for operators to replace drain covers before the life span expires.

What is the life span of my VGBA drain cover?

Aquastar	5 years	Neptune Benson	10-15 years
Eureka	20 years	Paramount	5 years
Grate Ideas	10 years	Pentair	7 years
Hayward	7 years	Strongwell	20 years
Lawson	10 years	Waterway	7 years

Is VGBA saving lives?

According to a Consumer Products Safety Commission report, there were two deaths in 2008 due to missing or broken covers. Only one death has occurred in a public pool or whirlpool due to entrapment in the past 8 years.

What should you do?

It is the responsibility of the facility operator to meet all federal and state requirements, maintain their equipment, and adhere to the manufacturer's directions per ATPC 76—Safety, Maintenance, and Operation of Public Pools and Water Attractions.

- 1) Determine the manufacturer's name and the cover's life span. This information can be found directly on the cover or within the documents that were included with the cover. Verify that the cover has not been recalled.
- 2) Create a log and include the following information:
 - a) Name or type of pool
 - b) Each drain cover's manufacturer's name and model
 - c) Drain cover's life span
 - d) Date of initial installation
 - e) Replacement manufacturer's name and model
 - f) Date of replacement
 - g) Person's initials
- 3) Replace expired drain covers with the same manufacturer and model. Make sure to inspect the entire device: frames, sump, screws, plaster rings, and spacers. Do NOT reuse old screws.
- 4) Maintain the log, include any supporting documents, and keep it on site and available for your health inspector for review.

The VGBA Drain Cover Replacement Log ([Document D-fd-21](#), 2017) can be used to help maintain your records for drain covers and devices.



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2811 Agriculture Dr., P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708
<https://www.datcp.wi.gov> P-DFRS0192 (2/2022)