



Happy Valentines to all our great clients!

Valentine's Day falls on Sunday, February 14th this year so from all of us here at DPS we want to wish you all the very happiest of days with your family and loved ones.

"Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act"

If you're a commercial property manager and you have commercial pools and spas you already know what the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, also known as VGBA, is all about. You also know that in California time is running out to get your pools and spas fitted with authorized anti-hair entanglement drain grates and if necessary to split the drains in pools and spas to comply with the law. DPS has done over 200 separate bodies of water since the federal law was implemented and we know what is needed. So we encourage property managers to get the job done before July 1st or your pools will be closed by the health department. You might want to check out this link for specific information:

http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/ep_rw_vgb.pdf

Residential customers are not affected by this VGBA law since it only applies to pools open to the public, and that includes private health clubs, Spas, HOA's, apartment complexes, etc.

If you are a pool and spa owner, the essence of the law says that the suction lines, meaning the floor drains and equalizer lines have to meet certain criteria that would prevent anyone from being sucked down and held on a drain grate. To accomplish this, single main drains have to be split in two and separated by a minimum of 36". Then a specially designed cover is installed that will allow water to flow back to the filter pump if someone inadvertently sits on or gets their hair too close to the drain. With the new drain covers and split drains we'll avoid drowning incidents like the one that caused this act to be enacted.

There are several ways of accomplishing the requirements of the VGBA so if you have concerns, please don't hesitate to call us and we can discuss the details. Remember, commercial pools must be modified by July 1, 2010. Residential pools and spas are exempt . . . for now!

If you have questions please send to our email address and we'll try to answer them as soon as possible. Send to: dpservice@ca.rr.com

Duane's Pool Service, Inc. – 31858 Castaic Rd., #327, Castaic, CA 91384
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Visit our web site at: www.duanespoolservice.com

Tired of opening that bill every month and then writing a check, finding a stamp and mailing your payment back to Duane's? We now invoice you online and you can pay with a credit card without doing a thing except telling us that's what you want to do. Call the office and talk to Debbie, it's that simple. 661-295-0422.

*How much water is in my pool? We often get the question about how much water is in a pool or spa so here is a very rough formula to calculate the volume:
Length X Width X Average Depth X 7.5 (gallons per cubic foot) = Gallons. A pool 30 feet long, 15 feet wide with a depth between 3 feet and 8 feet (average depth 5.5) would be approximately 18,562 gallons. Let's say water is ½ cent per gallon, the cost to refill your pool would be about \$93.00.*

Did the rains hit you as hard as they hit us? Wow, where did all that water come from? Our pool techs were battling overflowing pools and debris loads we haven't seen in years. We admit we couldn't give the super service we're known for but our techs were busier than you can imagine just trying to keep everything running and flowing. You can help in times where the pool fills to the brim. Take a regular garden hose and feed it into the pool and the other end down a drain or driveway and let the extra water siphon out until the level is ½ way up the waterline tiles. Thanks for your help. We appreciate it.

Check out our web page (see address at the left) and go to the "Knowledge Base" link. You'll find a list of terms we use to describe parts of your pool, for example you'll find the difference between a leaf basket and a skimmer basket. Check out the photos that show why a heater doesn't work once it's been off for awhile. The gas jets get clogged with spider webs: Simple but effective.