

What does this mean for you as a Pool Owner or Certified Pool Operator?

- **SOFA, cover, grate, or SOFA components (such as hardware, etc.) changes may now require plan review.** You must submit plan review with MDH **prior** to any changes.
 - If you have SOFAs manufactured **before** May 24th, 2021 (ANSI/APSP-16 2011, ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 (2007, 2008a, or 2009b), VGB-2008), **and** past it's lifespan, it is recommended the SOFA be replaced requiring a plan review through MDH.
- If you have SOFAs newly manufactured **on or after** May 24th, 2021 (ANSI/APSP/ICC-16 2017, VGBA 2017)
 - SOFA and components must be replaced at or before the end of their service life. (Service life begins the month and year a SOFA component is installed with or without water).
 - You must submit plan review with MDH **prior** to replacement.
 - SOFAs past their lifespan will result in closure until replaced after plan review.
- **Plan Review is required when:**
 - Installing newly manufactured sump(s) or complete SOFA assembly(ies) for both single suction outlets and dual in parallel suction outlets.
 - Modifying existing SOFAs into a new installation configuration.
 - Installing a newly manufactured cover over a single blockable suction outlet.
- **Plan Review is *not* required for**
 - Dual in parallel suction outlets.
 - Gravity drain systems (the presence of a surge tank does not confirm a pool has a gravity drain system).
 - Single suction outlet with an unblockable sump.
- **Submit SOFA Plan Review Applications to MDH**
 - If you need to alter your SOFAs (even if it is just changing out the suction outlet cover with the new SOFAs manufactured on or after May 24, 2021), you must submit for plan review to MDH and await approval before purchasing anything or making any changes.
 - Submit questions and completed applications to MDH email health.swimmingpools@state.mn.us or 651-201-4500
 - A fillable PDF of the Plan Review application is available through MDH's website:
<https://www.health.mn.gov/communities/environment/recreation/pools/docs/poolprappnew.pdf>

2025 Pool SOFA Common Questions

What paperwork do I need to have on-site for SOFAs?

- Pool operations manual that holds information on
 - Pool suction type (Single suction, Dual in Parallel suction)
 - SOFA spec sheets
 - SOFA installation dates
 - SOFA manufactured date
 - SOFA life span
 - SOFA Manufacturer's data plate, letter and/or paperwork that identify if it is blockable or unblockable

What if I have a single suction outlet and a blockable SOFA cover?

- Operation of your pool is NOT Allowed. Your SOFA can become a suction entrapment hazard, meaning a strong suction in the suction outlets could trap a body and lead to bodily harm and/or death.
 - Immediately close your pool for use
 - Submit plan review application to MDH

What if I do not have my SOFA paperwork?

- We recommend you work with the contractor who installed your SOFAs.
- If you are not sure and/or do not have that information, please submit a plan review application to MDH to replace your SOFAs and obtain updated records/paperwork.

How do I know if my SOFAs are considered blockable or unblockable?

- Statue definition of Unblockable SOFA: *"Unblockable suction outlet or drain" means a drain of any size and shape that a human body cannot sufficiently block to create a suction entrapment hazard and meets AMSE/ANSI standards."*
- SOFA spec sheets may note if it is a blockable or unblockable cover
- Some SOFAs have this information noted on its data plate

How do I know if I need plan review/construction?

- If you are doing any changes or alterations to your pool or pool enclosures that are noted in MDH's criteria found in their website:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/recreation/pools/poolpriorities.html>
- Submit questions and completed applications to MDH email
health.swimmingpools@state.mn.us or 651-201-4500