

Aquatic Facility Rules Fact Sheet #5 PR

What you should know about the Code

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OAR 333-060-1000,

Definitions, Chapter 2

“Underwater Bench” means a submerged seat with or without hydrotherapy jets.

Underwater benches must meet specific design and safety standards outlined in 4.5.16 to ensure user comfort and minimize safety risks.

PUBLIC HEALTH REASONS:

Underwater benches are common features in pools, providing swimmers with a place to relax or take a break. However, improper design, supervision, or maintenance can create safety hazards such as slip-and-fall accidents, collision risks, and other injuries. To protect public health, it's important that underwater benches are built with slip-resistant materials, correctly marked edges, installed at the correct water depth, and required supervision is provided.

Underwater Benches— Plan Review

Underwater benches are allowed in shallow areas of pools to allow swimmers to rest while staying submerged.

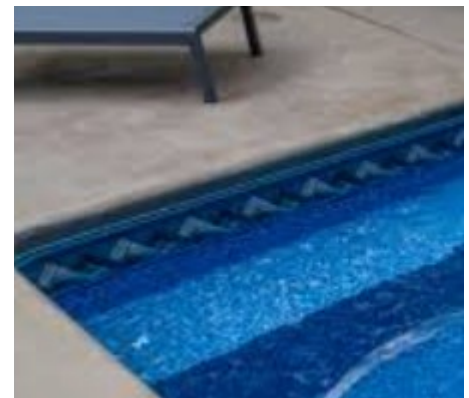
However, to prevent safety issues, the following design standards must be followed:

- **Slip Resistance:** The entire surface of the bench should be made of slip-resistant materials to prevent accidents caused by wet, slippery surfaces.
- **Edge Marking:** The leading horizontal edge of the bench must be outlined with a continuous slip-resistant, color-contrasting tile or permanent marking. These markings should be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (1.9 cm) wide, but no more than 3 inches (7.6 cm), or if using diamond markers, they must be at least 2 inches by 2 inches in size and spaced no more than 10 inches apart.
- **Water Depth:** The pool's maximum water depth where an underwater bench is installed should not exceed 5 feet (1.5 meters) to ensure safety.
- **Seat Depth:** The depth of any submerged seat or bench cannot exceed 24 inches (61 cm) from the waterline, ensuring that users can easily sit down and rise without difficulty.

Additional requirements include:

- Benches must not interfere with lap swimming.
- A rope and float line must be positioned at least 6 inches away from the vertical face of the bench, if applicable.

- Qualified lifeguards must be on duty during operating hours, except in senior living facility pools.
- "No Diving" markers must be placed on the deck adjacent to the underwater bench.



Underwater benches are only allowed in the shallow end of aquatic venues.

