



APSP wants to make sure that installers, owners, operators and service professionals continue to adhere to the requirements in the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act, (VGB) as well as the provisions in the ANSI/APSP/ICC-7 2013 Suction Entrapment Avoidance Standard.

The VGB Act requires that all "Drain Covers" (suction outlet fittings) comply with the ANSI/APSP-16 Drain Cover Standard, which has been adopted as a Consumer Product Safety Standard (a Federal Regulation).

ANSI/APSP/ICC-7, which is part of the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPS), extends those requirements to residential pools and spas. ANSI/APSP/ICC-7 also requires that ALL new pools be constructed with either a) multiple drains (suction outlets), b) no drains, or c) one or more unblockable drains, which is defined by the size of the opening below or behind the drain cover known as a sump. To qualify as an "unblockable drain" the sump must be large enough that an 18-inch by 23-inch rectangle with 4-inch rounded corners cannot shadow (block) the sump opening. Existing pools with a single blockable drains must be equipped with one or more of the following devices or systems designed to prevent suction entrapment:

1. Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS)
2. Suction-limiting vent system
3. Gravity drainage system
4. Automatic pump shut off system
5. Drain disablement, or
6. Other systems determined by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to be equally effective as items 1 through 4.

In addition, it is critical that owners and their service professionals check how long existing drain covers have been installed. The ANSI/APSP-16 Drain Cover Standard requires that manufacturers provide the drain cover service "Life in Years." This information is permanently marked on all manufactured and 3rd party certified VGB Drain Covers. For custom-built, unblockable large area suction systems, the "Life in Years" must be in the on-site report provided by the Registered Design Professional (PE or Architect) who certified the facility's VGB compliance.

The drain cover service life clock began when the product was installed, with or without water in the pool or spa. Many manufacturers have designated a life span of 5 years. Others have designated longer or shorter periods. Since numerous drains have been already installed, many have or are about to reach their expiration date and need to be replaced before the pool can be opened.

Ensure Compliance:

To ensure compliance, it is extremely important for installers (including plasterers and service professionals) and pool operators to maintain accurate records confirming the date of installation and provide these to their customers or inspectors.

- As with the original drain cover, each replacement unit must be compatible with the existing frame and sump, and have a flow rating equal or greater than the maximum system flow potential. All units should be installed by an industry professional, in accordance with manufacturer instructions.

Reconnect with Customers:

Builders and installers are strongly encouraged to contact their public and residential customers. This presents an excellent opportunity to reconnect with original customers, review the pool/spa circulation system, as well as the integrity of the existing drain cover frames. Safety is our core value.

Download our FAQ:

For your reference, we've developed a Frequently Asked Question document available [here](#) and at [APSP.org/Check](https://www.apsp.org/Check).