

1. Licensing and chemical safety

Rules for pool service are set by each state, and sometimes by the county or city. Start here.

Check your state licensing board before anything else on this list. Whether pool service needs a license, who needs a pool operator certification and what you may store and carry in a vehicle all vary by state, county and city. This kit does not list any state's rules.

Licenses and certifications

- ☐ **Find your state's licensing board** and ask whether pool service, pool maintenance or pool contractor work needs a license or registration where you work. Some states and cities license it and some do not. Use the official state website.
- ☐ **Ask where the line falls between routine service and repair work.** Testing water and cleaning may be treated differently from replacing equipment or changing plumbing. Find out whether you may replace a pump or motor yourself.
- ☐ **Ask who may do electrical and gas work.** Wiring a pump, a light or a heater may require a licensed electrician or pool contractor where you work.
- ☐ **Ask whether a pool operator certification is required for commercial or public pools,** such as apartment communities, hotels and gyms. Some places require one. Ask your state or county health department, or whichever office oversees public pools.
- ☐ **Get a city or county business license or registration** if your area requires one. Check where the business is based and where you work, since they can differ.
- ☐ **Ask the city or county building department** which equipment jobs need a permit, who pulls it and what it costs.
- ☐ **Find out whether your state requires your license number** on estimates, invoices, ads and the truck. Put renewal dates on your calendar and keep copies of every license, certificate and permit in one folder.

Chemical storage, handling and transport

- ☐ **Keep the safety data sheet (SDS) for every chemical you carry.** Get it from the product maker or your supplier. Keep one set in a folder in the vehicle and one set at home or in the shop.
- ☐ **Read each label and SDS** for how to store and handle the product, what protective gear to wear, what to do after a splash or fumes, and how to clean up a spill.
- ☐ **Keep chemicals in their original labeled containers.** Never mix pool chemicals together, and store acids and chlorine products apart from each other.
- ☐ **Ask your city or county fire department or hazardous materials office** whether any limits apply to storing chemicals at home or in a shop, and to carrying them in a vehicle.
- ☐ **Ask your city or county waste or environmental office** how to dispose of leftover chemicals, empty containers and filter-cleaning water.
- ☐ **Ask whether the products you apply count as pesticides where you work.** Some pool sanitizers and algaecides are registered as pesticides. Your state agriculture department can tell you whether a license applies.
- ☐ **If you have employees,** ask your state workplace safety office about chemical training and labeling rules.