

DPR Swim Attire Requirements

All persons on the pool deck, and/or swimming in the pool, are required to wear proper swim attire. All swimwear bottoms must have a liner. All swimwear must be clean. All infants/toddlers that require diapers must wear swimmers diapers and proper swimwear.

ALLOWED: Clean cotton t-shirts and sarongs. Patrons on the deck **MUST** have on proper swim attire under these items.

NOT ALLOWED: Brazil/French-cut, thong style and/or revealing swim wear is prohibited. "Street clothes", cut-off jeans, jeans, skirts, shorts, sport bras, leotards, leggings, dri-fit wear, compression shorts and compression shirts. Underwear and undergarments are **not allowed** to be worn under swimsuits.

Why do I have to wear proper swimwear?

1. Street clothes (especially cotton) can transport airborne and ultimately water borne contaminants into the pool.
2. Lycra and Nylon are the best non-absorbent material for swimming and are the best fabrics for proper swim attire.
 - a. Other absorbent materials (such as cotton) can break down in the water and cause fibers to clog filters.
 - b. Any "colored" material (unless specifically made for swimming) can bleed into the pool, affecting water chemistry and balance. This is also a reason for turbidity in pools.
3. Cotton and similar materials can absorb the chemicals in the water, causing the water to become less effective at maintaining the proper chemical balance or may cloud the water.



ALLOWED



NOT ALLOWED



*When purchasing, please confirm that this item is specifically made for swimming/swimming pools.

The DC Department of Parks and Recreation reserves the right to deny use of DPR pool and/or spa facilities for non-approved swimwear. If you are unsure if your swimwear meets our guidelines, please check with facility management. DPR Aquatics Division (202) 671-1289.



[Mayor Muriel Bowser](#)

[DC.gov](#) [dpr.dc.gov](#)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Department of Parks and Recreation



DPR Releases Guidance Regarding Swim Attire Requirements for District Pools

Monday, July 22, 2013

DPR Provides Detailed Guidance Around the Pre-Existing Swim Attire Policies



DC DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Office Hours
Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

Connect With Us

1250 U Street, NW, 2nd floor,
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: (202) 673-7647
Fax: (202) 673-2087
TTY: 711
Email: dpr@dc.gov



Ask the Director

Agency Performance

- [Amharic \(አማርኛ\)](#)
- [Chinese \(中文\)](#)
- [French \(Français\)](#)
- [Korean \(한국어\)](#)
- [Spanish \(Español\)](#)
- [Vietnamese \(Tiếng Việt\)](#)

The current requirements are as follows:

- All persons on the pool deck and/or swimming in the pool must have on proper swim attire.
- All infants/toddlers that require a diaper must wear swimmer diapers and proper swimwear.
- Clean cotton t-shirts and sarongs are allowed on the pool deck, however patrons must have on proper swim attire underneath.
- The following attire is not allowed at District pools:
 - "Street clothes," Brazil/French-cut, thong style and/or revealing swim wear, cut-off jeans, jeans, skirts, shorts, sport bras, leotards, leggings, dri-fit wear, compression shorts and compression shirts are prohibited. Underwear and undergarments are not allowed to be worn under swimsuits.

Pool patrons often ask, "Why do I have to wear proper swimwear?"

Here are just a few reasons as to why it is important to only wear pool attire in the pool.

1. Street clothes (especially cotton) can transport airborne and ultimately water borne contaminants into the pool.
2. Lycra and Nylon are the best non-absorbent material for swimming and are the best fabrics for proper swim attire.

pools.

3. Cotton and similar materials can absorb the chemicals in the water, causing the water to become less effective at maintaining the proper chemical balance or may cloud the water.

(Please see photos below.)

ALLOWED



*When purchasing, please confirm that the item is specifically made for swimming/swimming pools.

NOT ALLOWED



- [Aquatics Facilities](#)
- [Aquatics Admission and Fees](#)
- [Aquatics Pool Rules & Safety](#)

The DC Department of Parks and Recreation reserves the right to deny use of DPR pool and/or spa facilities for non-approved swimwear.

If you are unsure if your swimwear meets DPR's guidelines, please check with facility management or call DPR's Aquatics Division at (202) 671-1299 (during normal business hours).

For information on DPR facilities, programs & activities, follow DPR on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Join our Mailing List](#) or visit the [DPR Website](#).



[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Mobile](#)

[Maps](#)

[Webcasts](#)

[RSS](#)

[Data](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[More Resources >](#)



District News

- [Mayor's Public Schedule](#)
- [Citywide News](#)
- [Citywide Calendar](#)
- [Subscribe to Receive Emails](#)
- [Subscribe to Text Alerts](#)
- [Subscribe to Newsletters](#)



District Initiatives

- [Green DC](#)
- [Age-Friendly DC](#)
- [Sustainable DC](#)
- [Connect DC](#)
- [Great Streets](#)
- [Ready DC](#)



About DC

- [Open DC](#)
- [Budget](#)
- [Emanicipation](#)
- [Consumer Protection](#)
- [Contracts](#)
- [Property Quest](#)



Contact Us

- [Agency Directory](#)
- [Call 311](#)
- [Contact the Mayor](#)
- [Contact Agency Directors](#)
- [FOIA Requests](#)
- [Report Website Problems](#)
- [Send Feedback](#)
- [Service Request Center](#)

Aquatics Center Dress Code

All patrons must have on swimwear. The type of swimwear is up to the discretion of the individual. This is a diverse and global community with different ideas of modesty. Everyone must be appropriately covered at all times.

Things that are allowed at the pool include:

- Any article of clothing that was designed for swim use that is chlorine proof and colorfast
- One Piece Bathing Suit
- Two Piece Bathing Suit
- Swim Shorts
- Swim Skirts
- Swimming Trunks
- Swim Shirt
- Full Swim Suit
- Wet Suit
- Water Shoes

Things that are not allowed in the pool area including but not limited to:

- Underwear
- Sports Bras
- Cotton Clothing
- Jeans
- Gym shorts, Cut offs
- Jackets
- T-Shirts
- Land Shoes
- Socks
- See-through bathing suits when wet
- Clothing with buttons or zippers
- Any type of street clothes

Self-Assessment of attire.....it is not allowed if:

- You would wear your attire to the gym, during land sports or running
- Your swim trunks have no netting/lining
- You wear underwear with your swim trunks
- Your spandex can be used for land sports
- It is bought in the underwear department

You will be asked to change or leave if:

- You are in unacceptable swimwear
- You have been wearing your swimwear for land exercising immediately prior to pool use
- You are wearing anything cotton
- You are not appropriately covered

PROPER SWIMWEAR

ACCEPTABLE OPTIONS



WET SUITS
FULL BODY SUITS
ONE PIECE SUITS
TWO PIECE SUITS
SWIM SHIRTS
SWIM SHORTS
JAMMERS/SPEEDOS
OR
ANY
COMBINATION

ABSOLUTELY NOT PERMITTED



NO COTTON SHIRTS OR SHORTS, SPORTS BRAS OR JEANS

SWIMWEAR SHOULD BE COLORFAST AND NOT COTTON