



# Single Unblockable Drains

*Consumer Product Safety Commission Reverses Initial Ruling*

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On September 28, 2011, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) **reversed** its decision to allow an approved unblockable cover to be installed over a blockable drain without additional entrapment protection. A swimming pool or spa operator that installed an approved unblockable drain cover over an existing blockable drain sump is required to either remodel the system or install a secondary system to prevent entrapment. The deadline for compliance has been extended to May 23, 2013.

## **What CPSC ruling was reversed?**

The previous April 6, 2010 ruling allowed a single unblockable drain cover exceeding the 18" x 23" body blocking element dimension to be installed on a sump with dimensions less than the 18" x 23" *without additional entrapment protection*.

## **Is this ruling retroactive for existing drains that have already been replaced?**

Yes, it applies to all single unblockable drains with sump dimensions less than the 18" x 23" body blocking element.

## **If I have an unblockable drain cover over a blockable sump, am I required to modify the sump?**

No, the ruling does not require modifying the drain sump since it provides a level of entrapment protection. CPSC directs pool and spa operators to provide additional entrapment protection.

## **What are recognized levels of additional entrapment protection?**

Providing additional protection against body entrapment includes any of the following:

- Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS).
- Automatic pump shutoff system.
- Suction limiting vent system (vent line).
- Gravity drainage system (balance or surge tank).

## **If I have an unblockable drain cover with a blockable sump dimension below it (less than 18" x 23"), what minimum requirements are established in Washington State rules?**

In Washington State, we accept the installation a manual shutoff switch and audible alarm as sufficient additional protection.

## **If I have provided the manual shutoff switch, am I in compliance with the Federal Pool and Spa Safety Act?**

No. The Federal Pool and Spa Safety Act requires the other levels of protection recognized above. State and local health jurisdictions intend to inform pool owners of these requirements, but enforcement of these provisions are through the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission.

For more information, see: [www.poolsafely.gov](http://www.poolsafely.gov), [www.apsp.org](http://www.apsp.org), and [www.nspf.org](http://www.nspf.org).

