

Chapter 18

Facility Design & Water Management

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The purpose of this chapter is to:

- Familiarize therapists with the therapy pool design process by explaining the project phases one goes through when designing and building an aquatic facility.
- List the advantages and disadvantages of purchasing and installing a pre-fabricated therapy pool instead of building a pool from scratch.
- Discuss recent pool design trends.
- Provide various formulas used for determining space, flow rate, and turnover time requirements
- Stress the importance of doing a thorough code review, so the therapist becomes familiar with statutory and regulatory requirements that govern what can and cannot be built and how the facility must be maintained and operated in order to protect patients, therapists and other employees, as well as the environment.
- List common pool design errors, so that the therapist can learn from the mistakes of others.
- Emphasize the importance of documentation in a properly operated aquatic therapy facility.

FACILITY DESIGN & WATER MANAGEMENT

Design Process

Before embarking on a major facility design project, an aquatic therapist should learn the basics of how to design a patient and therapist friendly warm water pool, and have the knowledge necessary to select appropriate equipment and features which compliment the programming and therapy goals. The therapist should be able to make informed decisions as to which products, chemicals, pieces of equipment, and surface and construction materials are best suited for use in warm water therapy pool environments. He or she should have a basic understanding of the therapy pool design process, know the advantages and disadvantages of constructing a pool vs. purchasing and installing a pre-fabricated pool, have an understanding of space requirements, and be able to estimate costs of building a therapy pool.