

Calculating Maximum Bather Load

410 IAC 6-2.1-7.5 “Maximum bather load” defined

Sec. 7.5. “Maximum bather load” means the maximum usage of the pool calculated based on the following, whichever is applicable:

	Shallow or wading areas (A)	Deep areas, not including diving areas (B)	Diving areas (per board) (C)
If the deck is less than the surface area of the pool	15 sq. ft. of pool surface area per bather	20 sq. ft. of pool surface area per bather	300 sq. ft. of pool surface area per bather
If the deck is equal to or larger than the surface area of the pool	12 sq. ft. of pool surface area per bather	15 sq. ft. of pool surface area per bather	300 sq. ft. of pool surface area per bather
If the deck is twice the surface area of the pool	8 sq. ft. of pool surface area per bather	10 sq. ft. of pool surface area per bather	300 sq. ft. of pool surface area per bather

A+B+C= Maximum bather load. If the diving board(s) is closed, an additional 10 bathers are permitted.

410 IAC 6-2.1-5.6 “Deep areas” defined

Sec. 5.6. “Deep areas” means areas of the pool exceeding five (5) feet in depth.

410 IAC 6-2.1-3 “Bather load” defined

Sec. 3. “Bather load” means the total number of bathers within the pool enclosure.

The Maximum Bather Load is meant to be the maximum number of patrons allowed within the pool enclosure, not just the pool itself. To calculate the maximum bather load you will need to know the surface area of shallow areas, deep areas, and diving areas of your pool. You will also need to know the square footage of your deck space. The Marion County Public Health Department only has the total surface area of licensed pools.

Example 1: A pool with a minimum depth of 3ft and a maximum depth of 5ft has a pool surface area of 1,400 sqft and a deck surface area of 1,500 sqft. Use the middle row as the deck area is equal to or larger than the surface area of the pool, but not twice the surface area of the pool. This pool has only a shallow area and no deep or diving area.

$$A = 1,400 \text{ sqft divided by } 12 \text{ sqft per bather} = 116.7 \text{ or } \mathbf{117 \text{ bathers}}$$

Example 2: A pool with a minimum depth of 3ft and a maximum depth of 8ft has a pool surface area of 1,400 sqft (1,000 sqft shallow area and 400 sqft deep area) and a deck surface area of 3,000 sqft. Use the bottom row as the deck area twice the surface area of the pool. This pool has a shallow area and a deep area, but no diving area.

$$A = 1,000 \text{ sqft divided by } 8 \text{ sqft per bather} = 125$$

$$B = 400 \text{ sqft divided by } 10 \text{ sqft per bather} = 40$$

$$A+B = 125 + 40 = \mathbf{165 \text{ bathers}}$$