

SWIM PLATFORM INFORMATION SHEET

Pursuant to PARKS BRANCH DIRECTIVE, Index No. 9.1.7, in order for approval to be granted for the placement and use of a swim platform, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. They own a lot, or occupy a crown land lot, that is classified as lakefront.
2. No swimming platforms will be permitted in front of public beaches, public lanes, or other areas generally available to the public.
3. Swimming platforms may not be located in front of a lot that is adjacent to a designated public beach, or other public facility from which swimmers might, in the opinion of an officer, be attracted.
4. The floating platform must be anchored within the projected lines of the side buffers on the applicant's lot.
5. The platform must adhere to conditions specified by the Navigable Waters Protection:
 - a) No part of the platform may be located more than 100 feet (30 m)(may vary) from the normal high water mark on shore;
 - b) The platform must have at least one vertical structure mounted on it that projects a minimum of 3 feet (91 cm) above the water level;
 - c) All sides of the platform and all vertical structures on it must be painted white or yellow, and reflectors must be attached to all sides;
 - d) Platforms must be placed well away from navigation channels. Lights or flags, or daily removal may be necessary where warranted by the amount of boat traffic.
6. Platforms must be securely anchored so they will not drift away from the anchored site, and must be removed before freeze-up.
7. The maximum allowed size of a swimming platform is 100 ft² (9.3 m²).
8. The applicant is required to purchase and maintain a minimum of two million dollars per occurrence in liability insurance covering the swimming platform and indemnify and hold harmless the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Conservation from any claims that may result from issuance of this permit.

If you feel that you meet these criteria, then the following will be the procedure adhered to in order for the necessary approvals and permits to be issued:

1. Complete an application for a Crown Land Permit, and a site plan describing the location and size of the swimming platform. The location and distance from the shoreline are to be shown in relation to the projected lot lines of the applicant's lot. Distances from any other relevant lake features such as nearby islands or spits of land are also to be shown.
2. Submit a sketch or drawing indicating the size of the swimming platform, details about construction of the platform and how it will be anchored.
3. Provide a Certificate of Insurance indicating that the applicant has a minimum of \$2.0 million per occurrence liability insurance covering the swimming platform. (Hint: the applicant should discuss this requirement with the insurance broker handling his or her cottage insurance.)
4. Complete Navigable Waters Protection Act Application Form and submit all required information.
5. Submit proposed swim platform application to Parks and Natural Areas Branch, along with Navigable Waters Protection Act Application and required information, Box 51, 200 Saulteaux Cr., Winnipeg, MB R3J 3W3.
6. A Manitoba Conservation District Natural Resource Officer will conduct an on-site review and recommend or deny the application.
7. If it is recommended that the application be approved, Manitoba Conservation will forward the application to the Navigable Waters Protection, Transport Canada Marine, 3rd Floor, 344 Edmonton Street, P.O. Box 8550, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0P6 {Phone: (204)984-7494 Fax: (204)984-8417} for their review.
8. If approved by the Navigable Waters Protection, a Crown Land Permit will be issued for a floating swimming platform. The permittee will then pay an annual fee as provided for in the regulations passed under *The Provincial Parks Act*. The permittee shall also provide evidence of liability insurance annually to Manitoba Conservation through an updated Certificate of Insurance.

No installation of a swimming platform may occur until approval has been granted by the Navigable Waters Protection and a Crown Land Permit has been issued from Manitoba Conservation.