



Why swimming pool and spa contractors and sub-contractors are essential businesses:

1. On March 19, 2020 Governor Newsome issued Executive Order N-33-20 directing all residents to stay at home except as needed to maintain essential critical infrastructure sectors and additional sectors as the State Public Health Officer may designate as critical to protect the health and well-being of all Californians. These guidelines mirror the Cyber and Infrastructure Security Administration/Homeland Security Administration recommendations. #17 of the Governor's order states, "construction workers who support the construction, operation, inspection and maintenance of construction sites and construction projects (including housing construction) and #18 states, " workers such as plumbers, electricians, exterminators and other service providers **who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation and essential operation of construction sites and construction projects.**" In additional guidance issued on 3-20-20 the Governor's office reiterated that **ALL construction (including housing) is essential.**
2. The Cyber and Infrastructure Security Administration (CISA), a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security guidance document states that: "**workers such as plumbers, electricians, exterminators and other service providers that provide services that are necessary to maintain safety sanitation and essential operation of residences.**" Plumbers and electricians are two of the several sub-contractor disciplines used in swimming pool construction.
3. The various contractors used in swimming pool construction generally have little direct contact with the homeowners or the general public, and are quite capable of working while observing the proper social distancing requirements.
4. With the Governor's stay at home order and school closures, children of all ages are now at home with many adults who are forced or are voluntarily staying home to comply with the order. All construction sites are dangerous. In the case of a residential pool construction site, it is in the residential backyard! This presents a unique danger not associated with most commercial construction sites. The children are literally living in the construction site. The residential backyard is generally considered the safe place to send children to play in today's changed world. An unfinished pool provides many different dangers depending on its stage of construction. Pools that have been dug but have no shell are subject to erosion and potential cave in. Pools that have rebar set but no shell present a danger there. Once a pool has the Gunit shell in place can pop out of the ground if heavy rains occur and "float" the pool. There are open trenches throughout much of the construction process. All of these are clear and present dangers.
5. Having the construction project continuing increases the safety of these sites. As long as construction continues, there are workers on site most days and this tends to keep the children away as work is progressing. As the work progresses through the stages, some of the dangers go away until upon completion it is once again a safe site with a completed pool.

Allowing the swimming pool construction industry to continue is essential as residential pool construction sites create a unique safety hazard, especially with so many forced to be home. Help protect homeowners and children by allowing this essential work to be completed.