

El Cerrito Swim Center-Frequently asked questions

Is the pool indoor or outdoor?

Outdoor

What Temperature are your pools?

The competition pool is heated to around 79°. The Recreation Pool is heated to around 83°.

How big are the pools?

The competition pool is 25 yards by 25 meters. We run lap lanes in the yards direction only at this time. There are 8 competition lanes plus a shallow section that is a little more than one lane wide.

The recreation pool has three 25-yard lap lanes, as well as several shallow sections.

How many laps are in a mile?

70.4 Laps (in swimming a lap is equal to one length of the pool)

Do I need to be a member?

No. We are a public pool owned and operated by the City of El Cerrito. All our programs are available to the public on a fee basis.

What types of chemicals are in the water?

In order to keep the water sanitary and safe and adhere to health regulations we use liquid chlorine (sodium hypochlorite), Hydrochloric acid, sodium bicarbonate (baking soda), and calcium chloride. If you have questions about possible allergic reactions to any of these chemicals please contact a healthcare professional.

Do you have lockers?

Yes. Each locker room is equipped with plenty of lockers. They are coin operated (\$.50) or you can use your own lock. Lockers are for day use only. Locks or belongings left overnight may be discarded.

Are my belongings safe at the Swim Center?

There are so many different people and groups that use the Swim Center on a regular basis; it is difficult for our staff to keep an eye on everyone's belongings. You should never bring anything of value to the Swim Center and what you do bring is only safe in a properly secured locker. Your belongings should not be left anywhere else in the locker room or on the pool deck.

Why do non-residents pay more than residents? Who is a resident?

Residents or their landlords pay property taxes that help the city to subsidize our programs and operations, therefore non-residents pay a 25% surcharge for our classes and passes.

Residents live within the city limits of El Cerrito. If your postal code is 94530 you are an El Cerrito resident, otherwise you must pay the non-resident surcharge. Residents of neighboring communities such as Kensington, Albany and Richmond are considered non-residents.

It's hot outside today can I come swimming?

If there is a scheduled Recreation Swim (for kids) or Lap Swim (for adults) then you are welcome during those times. In order to serve the needs of the whole community though, our pools are fully programmed seven days a week with a variety of activities. We cannot cancel pre-scheduled programs because it is hot outside and others may wish to use the pool. We do offer Recreation swim at least 3 days a week year round (even in the cooler months) and 7 days a week in the summer.

It's raining and cold, is the pool still open?

Yes. The only weather that closes the pool is lightning. Besides, the pools are always heated and you're getting wet anyway.

What's the difference between Family swim and Recreation Swim?

Both are times that at least the small pool is open for play, but during family swim all children must be accompanied by an adult the water and all adults must be accompanied by children in the water. For this reason Family Swim tends to be a quieter time for families to enjoy the water together.