

RESIDENTIAL POOL CONTRACTORS GENERAL TRADE KNOWLEDGE EXAMINATION CONTENT INFORMATION

Revised September 14

The General Trade Knowledge portion of the examination is administered daily in Computer Based Testing (CBT) format. It will consist of 80 equally weighted questions.

The examination will have questions relating to the following content areas and necessary knowledge for each area includes:

- reading and interpreting plans and specifications
- reading and interpreting codes
- basic mathematics
 (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, calculations of area and volume, fractions, decimals, percentages, calculating the sides of triangles, square roots, powers of numbers, and solving simple algebraic equations for unknown variables)

You should be prepared to respond to examination questions on any of the content areas listed. Questions asked and content areas tested on previous examinations should not be assumed to be the only possible questions to be asked or content areas to be tested on this examination.

The percentage of questions shown for each content area may vary by as much as plus or minus three (3) percent. Please refer to the Candidate Information Brochure and the Reference List for additional information.

Content Area A 7 ½% Pre-Installation and Site Preparation

1. Drawing plans that meet job requirements

knowledge of local ordinances and setback requirements

knowledge of survey restrictions

knowledge of environmental requirements

knowledge of ANSI 5 design criteria

knowledge of ANSI 3 design criteria

knowledge of system design

knowledge of symbols

knowledge of abbreviations

knowledge of terminology

knowledge of site dimensions knowledge of scale dimensions knowledge of soil types

2. Determine appropriate equipment needed for jobs

knowledge of Florida Building Code and any local amendments knowledge of site conditions knowledge of availability of utilities knowledge of subsoil conditions knowledge of water tables knowledge of characteristics of gunite, tile, steel, fiberglass, vinyl, concrete piping, and wiring

3. Complying with building department requirements

knowledge of permitting requirements knowledge of required inspections knowledge of life safety issues

Content Area B Pool and Spa Excavation

15%

1. Locating underground, above ground and overhead obstructions

knowledge of where to find information knowledge of job site restrictions knowledge of site conditions knowledge of how to identify obstructions knowledge of when and how to notify appropriate authorities knowledge of permissible working conditions

2. Excavating or clearing sites

knowledge of staking out excavation knowledge of determining location of excavation knowledge of shoring knowledge of soil conditions knowledge of invert elevations knowledge of basic surveying knowledge of layout methods knowledge of interpreting plans and specifications knowledge of surveying and leveling equipment knowledge of compaction equipment knowledge of earth moving and excavation equipment

3. Performing site grading

knowledge of elevation requirements knowledge of basic surveying and leveling techniques knowledge of surveying and leveling equipment knowledge of identification of obstructions knowledge of removal of site debris knowledge of drainage

4. Determining water tables

knowledge of subsoil conditions knowledge of augers knowledge of aquifers knowledge of drilling equipment and practices

5. Determining soil conditions

knowledge of subsoil conditions knowledge of excavation knowledge of sampling knowledge of soil composition knowledge of soil testing

6. Performing de-watering, de-mucking and well-pointing

knowledge of dewatering equipment knowledge of piping requirements knowledge of soils knowledge of soil permeability knowledge of excavation equipment knowledge of excavating techniques and requirements knowledge of water table knowledge of well points knowledge of drawdown knowledge of pump requirements and techniques

7. Backfilling and compacting

knowledge of different types of backfill material knowledge of surveying and leveling equipment knowledge of surveying and leveling techniques knowledge of soil properties knowledge of tamping knowledge of correct moisture content knowledge of percent compaction knowledge of soil density testing techniques knowledge of calculations to determine the amount of dirt to fill

8. Removing foreign materials and debris

knowledge of hand tools knowledge of excavation equipment knowledge of hauling equipment knowledge of materials disposal requirements knowledge of environmental standards protection

Content Area C Plumbing Work

12 1/2%

1. Installing recirculating lines

knowledge of interpreting plans and specifications knowledge of piping materials and applications knowledge of placement knowledge of associated fittings knowledge of valve requirements knowledge of related components

2. Pressure testing recirculating lines

knowledge of theory knowledge of psi's knowledge of hook-up and placement ability to understand test results knowledge of dangers of pressure plugs knowledge of pressure testing techniques knowledge of the dangers of pressurized lines

3. Installing filter equipment

knowledge of filtration requirements knowledge of manufacturer's specifications knowledge of type of filters knowledge of gauges and valves knowledge of placement of pumps knowledge of types and capacities of motors

knowledge of flow rates and piping pressures knowledge of ANSI 7 requirements knowledge of inlets and outlets

4. Installing pumps

knowledge of filtration requirements knowledge of types of pumps and pump loads knowledge of grounding knowledge of piping techniques and requirements knowledge of pressures and flow requirements knowledge of manufacturer's specifications knowledge of hydraulics

5. Installing skimmers

knowledge of filtration requirements knowledge of types of skimmers knowledge of skimmer housings knowledge of strainer baskets knowledge of weirs and valves knowledge of vacuum cleaning connections knowledge of flow rates, pressures, and overflow systems

6. Installing solar heaters

knowledge of solar heating requirements and practices knowledge of roof penetrations knowledge of solar collectors knowledge of piping techniques and requirements knowledge of pipe fittings knowledge of control requirements knowledge of pump requirements

7. Installing conventional heaters (gas, heat pump, electric)

knowledge of state and local codes
knowledge of location requirements
knowledge of fire and gas codes
knowledge of sizing and flow rates
knowledge of heat exchangers for gas heaters
knowledge of location of L.P. Gas tanks for gas
heaters
knowledge of heat pumps for electric heaters

knowledge of heat pumps for electric heaters knowledge of immersion elements for electric heaters

knowledge of manufacturer's specifications

8. Installing automatic cleaners

knowledge of piping requirements knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of pipe fitting knowledge of fittings knowledge of pumps knowledge of filtration requirements knowledge of materials knowledge of manufacturer's specifications knowledge of processes for automatic feeders

9. Installing automatic feeders

knowledge of piping techniques and requirements
knowledge of pipe fitting requirements
knowledge of pipe fitting
knowledge of pipe materials
knowledge of processes for automatic feeders
knowledge of manufacturer's specifications

10. Sizing pipes

knowledge of hydraulics knowledge of ANSI 7 requirements knowledge of pump specifications knowledge of pump flow rates

Content Area D Electrical Work

5%

1. Determining power line requirements

knowledge of wire size based on amperage knowledge of size of conduits knowledge of types of conduits knowledge of wire type knowledge of overhead power knowledge of "call before you dig" knowledge for determining line sizes

2. Installing electric control panels

knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of location and clearance requirements knowledge of electrical grounding requirements knowledge of sizing breakers

3. Perform bonding procedures

knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of bonding requirements knowledge of NEC requirements

4. Perform grounding procedures

knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of electrical grounding requirements knowledge of NEC requirements

5. Installing light niches

knowledge of proper installation requirements (conduit)

knowledge of safety requirements

knowledge of types of niches

knowledge of location and amount of

illumination

knowledge of bonding requirements

knowledge of manufacturer's specifications

knowledge of elevation and placement of niche

knowledge of voltage limitations

6. Installing, replacing and repairing electrical components

knowledge of local and state codes knowledge of automatic timers knowledge of lights knowledge of electrical connections to chlorinating generators

knowledge of manufacturer's specifications

knowledge of scope of work

Content Area E Shell Placement

10%

1. Installing steel reinforcing bars

knowledge of reinforcing practices and procedures

knowledge of scale dimensions

knowledge of measurement requirements

knowledge of bonding requirements knowledge of concrete coverage and rebar clearances

2. Installing fiberglass walls

knowledge of material properties
knowledge of specific handling requirements
knowledge of supports and anchorage
knowledge of backfilling requirements
knowledge of surveying and leveling equipment
knowledge of surveying and leveling
techniques
knowledge of soil properties and
angle of repose
knowledge of excavation techniques

knowledge of manufacturer's specifications

3. Installing metal walls

knowledge of material properties

knowledge of specific handling requirements knowledge of supports and anchorage knowledge of backfilling requirements knowledge of surveying and leveling equipment knowledge of surveying and leveling techniques knowledge of soil properties and angle of repose knowledge of excavation techniques knowledge of manufacturer's specifications

4. Installing plastic walls

knowledge of material properties
knowledge of specific handling requirements
knowledge of supports and anchorage
knowledge of backfilling requirements
knowledge of surveying and leveling equipment
knowledge of surveying and leveling
techniques
knowledge of soil properties and
angle of repose
knowledge of excavation techniques
knowledge of manufacturer's specifications

5. Installing structural polymer walls

knowledge of material properties
knowledge of specific handling requirements
knowledge of supports and anchorage
knowledge of backfilling requirements
knowledge of surveying and leveling equipment
knowledge of surveying and leveling
techniques
knowledge of soil properties and
angle of repose
knowledge of excavation techniques
knowledge of manufacturer's specifications

6. Testing for leakage in pool and spa shells

knowledge of measuring elevation differentials knowledge of evaporation knowledge of testing procedures knowledge of rate of loss procedures

7. Mixing pneumatically applied concrete

knowledge of concrete reinforcement requirements knowledge of concrete properties knowledge of concrete testing knowledge of placement techniques knowledge of finishing techniques knowledge of pressurized concrete equipment

8. Installing precast support pilings

knowledge of soils knowledge of precast piles knowledge of pile driving methods and procedures knowledge of engineer's specifications

Content Area F
Deck Work

5%

1. Laying out and forming decks

knowledge of surveying and leveling equipment knowledge of surveying and leveling techniques knowledge of excavation and backfill knowledge of drainage requirements knowledge of form work knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of compaction requirements

2. Installing wood decks

knowledge of pressure treated wood knowledge of other wood protection knowledge of carpentry knowledge of carpentry tools knowledge of foundations knowledge of piers knowledge of connectors knowledge of safety requirements

3. Installing concrete decks

knowledge of concrete properties
knowledge of concrete reinforcement
knowledge of concrete placement
knowledge of concrete finishing
knowledge of form work
knowledge of expansion and contraction
protection
knowledge of drainage and slope
knowledge of deck drains and plumbing
knowledge of deck finishes
knowledge of compaction requirements
knowledge of soil treatments

4. Installing masonry type decks (tile, stone, and brick)

knowledge of sub-base materials knowledge of work requirements knowledge of material placement knowledge of drainage and slope knowledge of deck drains knowledge of stabilization knowledge of compaction

Content Area G Tile, Coping and Trim Work

10%

1. Installing tiles

knowledge of material properties
knowledge of specific handling requirements
knowledge of measurements
knowledge of measuring equipment
knowledge of types of grouts and requirements
knowledge of adhesive requirements
knowledge of mortar requirements
knowledge of cleaning
knowledge of leveling techniques and
requirements
knowledge of architectural effects
knowledge of manufacturer's specifications
knowledge of control joints
knowledge of code requirements
knowledge of plans and specifications

2. Installing masonry trims (brick, stone, and precast coping)

knowledge of material properties knowledge of specific handling requirements knowledge of measurements knowledge of measuring equipment knowledge of types of grouts and requirements knowledge of adhesive requirements knowledge of mortar requirements knowledge of cleaning knowledge of leveling techniques and requirements knowledge of architectural effects knowledge of mitering knowledge of manufacturer's specifications knowledge of control joints knowledge of code requirements knowledge of plans and specifications

3. Checking for level placement of materials

knowledge of leveling equipment knowledge of leveling techniques and requirements knowledge of code requirements knowledge of plans and specifications

Content Area H
Accessory Work

5%

1. Installing fencing

knowledge of state and local codes knowledge of location requirements knowledge of picket spacing knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of barrier code and insurance requirements

2. Installing diving boards and diving platforms

knowledge of materials for diving boards knowledge of installation requirements knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of proper placement knowledge of manufacturer's specifications knowledge of bonding requirements

3. Installing slides

knowledge of materials for slides knowledge of installation requirements knowledge of proper placement knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of manufacturer's specifications knowledge of bonding requirements

4. Installing auxiliary lighting

knowledge of fiber optic lighting knowledge of low voltage accent lighting knowledge of manufacturer's specifications knowledge of proximity location knowledge of NEC requirements

5. Installing alternate sanitation devices

knowledge of different types of devices knowledge of manufacturer's specifications knowledge of installation knowledge of different device applications knowledge of scope of work

Content Area I 5% Interior Surface Preparation and Finishing

1. Performing interior pool and spa clean-outs

knowledge of pool draining procedures knowledge of possible uplift knowledge of chemicals knowledge of cleaning solutions knowledge of cleaning procedures knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of disposal requirements knowledge of surface adhesion

2. Performing interior pool and spa finishes of concrete pools

knowledge of concrete requirements knowledge of concrete testing knowledge of concrete properties knowledge of finishing and brazing knowledge of surface adhesion

3. Installing lining in vinyl-lined pools

knowledge of materials
knowledge of methods
knowledge of soils and stabilization
knowledge of retaining walls
knowledge of coping
knowledge of leveling and installing
knowledge of anchoring
knowledge of manufacturer's specifications

Content Area J Start Up

5%

1. Pre-testing fill water

knowledge of water chemistry
knowledge of testing procedures and
requirements
knowledge of reagents
knowledge of saturation
knowledge of pH
knowledge of total alkalinity
knowledge of hardness
knowledge of prefiltering procedures
knowledge of TDS levels

2. Testing filters and filtration

knowledge of pressurizing procedures and requirements knowledge of turnover rates knowledge of pumps knowledge testing procedures knowledge of manufacturer's specifications

3. Balancing pool water

knowledge of water chemistry knowledge of testing procedures and requirements knowledge of solutions knowledge of reagents knowledge of saturation knowledge of pH knowledge of total alkalinity knowledge of hardness knowledge of disinfecting knowledge of sanitizing knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of chemical dangers knowledge of algae identification

4. Starting pool and spa auxiliary equipment

knowledge of manufacturer's specifications knowledge of system design knowledge of system calibration knowledge of turnover rate

5. Testing heating equipment

knowledge of wiring
knowledge of fuels
knowledge of solar input
knowledge of testing procedures
knowledge of temperature measurement
knowledge of system design
knowledge of exhaust venting
knowledge of manufacturer's specification
knowledge of types of heaters

6. Testing pump

knowledge of testing procedures knowledge of pump requirements knowledge of system design knowledge of hydraulics

7. Performing finalpool and spa clean-ups

knowledge of material procedures knowledge of safety requirements

Content Area K Service and Maintenance

10%

1. Demonstrating pool operation to owners

knowledge of mechanical and hydraulic systems
knowledge of chemical systems
knowledge of general pool care requirements
knowledge of communicating safety
requirements
knowledge of equipment
knowledge of communication skills
knowledge of daily reports
knowledge of maintenance procedures

2. Sanitizing pools and spas through chlorination

knowledge of water chemistry knowledge of pH knowledge of pool chemicals knowledge of effects of pool chemicals knowledge of practices of pool chemicals knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of dangers of chlorinating agents knowledge of chlorinating requirements knowledge of chlorinating procedures knowledge of chemical balancing techniques and requirements knowledge of testing techniques and requirements knowledge of reagents knowledge of adjusting techniques and requirements

3. Performing shock treatments or superchlorinations

knowledge of water chemistry knowledge of pH knowledge of pool chemicals knowledge of effects of pool chemicals knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of dangers of chlorinating agents knowledge of chlorinating requirements knowledge of chlorinating procedures and techniques knowledge of chemical balancing knowledge of testing techniques and requirements knowledge of reagents knowledge of adjusting techniques and requirements knowledge of identifying chemical demand knowledge of algae identification

4. Determining breakpoint chlorinations

knowledge of pH
knowledge of pool chemicals
knowledge of effects of pool chemicals
knowledge of practices of pool chemicals
knowledge of safety requirements
knowledge of dangers of chlorinating agents
knowledge of chlorinating requirements
knowledge of chlorinating procedures
knowledge of chemical balancing techniques
and requirements
knowledge of testing techniques and
requirements
knowledge of reagents

knowledge of adjusting techniques and requirements

5. Sanitizing pools and spas through oxidation

knowledge of effects of pool chemicals knowledge of practices of pool chemicals knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of chemical balancing techniques and requirements knowledge of testing techniques and requirements knowledge of reagents knowledge of adjusting techniques and requirements

6. Checking accurate turbidity

knowledge of testing techniques and requirements knowledge of reagents knowledge of adjusting techniques and requirements

7. Testing and adjusting pH values

knowledge of pH
knowledge of pH
knowledge of pool chemicals
knowledge of effects of pool chemicals
knowledge of safety requirements
knowledge of dangers of chlorinating agents
knowledge of chlorinating requirements
knowledge of chlorinating procedures
knowledge of chemical balancing techniques
and requirements
knowledge of testing techniques and
requirements
knowledge of reagents
knowledge of adjusting techniques and
requirements

8. Testing and adjusting water hardness

knowledge of pH
knowledge of pH
knowledge of pool chemicals
knowledge of effects of pool chemicals
knowledge of practices of pool chemicals
knowledge of safety requirements
knowledge of dangers of chlorinating agents
knowledge of chlorinating requirements
knowledge of chlorinating procedures
knowledge of chemical balancing techniques
and requirements

knowledge of testing techniques and requirements knowledge of reagents knowledge of adjusting techniques and requirements knowledge of calcium hardness

9. Testing and adjusting total alkalinity

knowledge of pH
knowledge of pH
knowledge of pool chemicals
knowledge of effects of pool chemicals
knowledge of safety requirements
knowledge of dangers of chlorinating agents
knowledge of chlorinating requirements
knowledge of chlorinating procedures
knowledge of chemical balancing techniques
and requirements
knowledge of testing techniques and
requirements
knowledge of reagents
knowledge of adjusting techniques and
requirements

10. Testing and adjusting cyanuric acid

knowledge of water chemistry knowledge of pH knowledge of pool chemicals knowledge of effects of pool chemicals knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of dangers of chlorinating agents knowledge of chlorinating requirements knowledge of chlorinating procedures knowledge of chemical balancing techniques and requirements knowledge of testing techniques and requirements knowledge of reagents knowledge of adjusting techniques and requirements knowledge of effects of cyanuric acid

11. Testing and adjusting metals

knowledge of water chemistry
knowledge of pool chemicals
knowledge of effects of pool chemicals
knowledge of safety requirements
knowledge of dangers of chlorinating agents
knowledge of chlorinating procedures
knowledge of chemical balancing techniques
and requirements

knowledge of testing techniques and requirements knowledge of reagents knowledge of adjusting techniques and requirements knowledge of sequestering agents

12. Cleaning D.E. filters by backwashing and jet spraying

knowledge of system design knowledge of pump requirements

knowledge of flow rates

knowledge of safety requirements

knowledge of testing procedures

knowledge of water clarity

knowledge of gauges

knowledge of drainage

knowledge of valves

knowledge of filter media disposal

13. Backwashing sand filters

knowledge of system design

knowledge of pump requirements

knowledge of flow rates

knowledge of safety requirements

knowledge of testing procedures

knowledge of water clarity

knowledge of gauges

knowledge of drainage

knowledge of valves

knowledge of manufacturer's specifications

14. Using sodium hypochlorite for disinfecting and deck cleaning

knowledge of safety requirements

knowledge of chemical properties

knowledge of mixing procedures

knowledge of chemical effects

knowledge of chemical balancing techniques

and requirements

knowledge of storage procedures and

requirements

15. Using calcium hypochlorite to sanitize decks and locker rooms

knowledge of safety requirements

knowledge of chemicals

knowledge of chemical properties

knowledge of mixing procedures

knowledge of chemical effects

knowledge of chemical balancing techniques

and requirements

knowledge of storage procedures and requirements

16. Using other pool sanitizers (e.g., bromine, iodine, ozone, ultraviolet, silver and electrolytic cells)

knowledge of safety requirements

knowledge of chemicals

knowledge of chemical properties

knowledge of mixing procedures

knowledge of chemical effects

knowledge of chemical balancing techniques and requirements

knowledge of chemical storage procedures and requirements

knowledge of chemical application procedures and requirements

17. Using other pool chemicals (e.g., flocculents, algicides, sequestering agents, degreasers and defoamers)

knowledge of safety requirements

knowledge of chemicals

knowledge of chemical properties

knowledge of mixing procedures

knowledge of filtration requirements

knowledge of filtration media

knowledge of chemical effects

knowledge of chemical balancing techniques

and requirements

knowledge of chemical storage procedures and requirements

18. Testing and adjusting water saturation and undersaturation

knowledge of water chemistry

knowledge of pH

knowledge of pool chemicals

knowledge of effects of pool chemicals

knowledge of safety requirements

knowledge of chlorinating techniques and

procedures

knowledge of chemical balancing techniques and requirements

knowledge of testing procedures

knowledge of reagents

knowledge of adjusting procedures

knowledge of Langlier Index

19. Identify the effect of chemical balances on staining

knowledge of safety requirements

knowledge of chemicals

knowledge of chemical properties

knowledge of mixing procedures

knowledge of chemical effects

knowledge of storage procedures and

requirements

20. Replacing light bulbs and underwater lights

knowledge of different voltage lights

knowledge of proper safety procedures and

requirements

knowledge of importance of ground fault

interrupter

knowledge of safe wiring and sealing water out

knowledge of material specifications

knowledge of bonding and grounding

requirements

knowledge of manufacturer's specifications

21. Utilizing pool blankets and covers

knowledge of materials and types

knowledge of positives and negatives of pool

blankets and covers

knowledge of the properties of materials

knowledge of safety requirements

knowledge of installation

knowledge of securing installation

knowledge of chemical balance effects

22. Maintaining and repairing plumbing equipment

knowledge of safety requirements

knowledge of piping requirements

knowledge of fittings

knowledge of pipe fittings

knowledge of piping protection

knowledge of pressure requirements

knowledge of gauges

knowledge of pressure testing

knowledge of flow rates

knowledge of pumps

knowledge of leak detection

23. Maintaining and repairing decks

knowledge of bonding agents for adhesion of new material to old

knowledge of cleaning in preparation for repair

knowledge of safety requirements

knowledge of expansion joints

knowledge of codes

knowledge of maintaining strength of the deck

knowledge of soil conditions

knowledge of compaction

knowledge of concrete placement

24. Maintaining and repairing accessory fixtures

knowledge of safety requirements

knowledge of solar heating

knowledge of conventional heating

knowledge of materials

knowledge of the properties of materials

knowledge of procedures

knowledge of material handling

knowledge of manufacturer's specifications

25. Maintaining and repairing pool shells

knowledge of leak detection

knowledge of leak testing

knowledge of safety requirements

knowledge of materials

knowledge of the properties of materials

knowledge of crack repair procedures

knowledge of recoating procedures

26. Cleaning cartridge filters

knowledge of system design

knowledge of pump requirements

knowledge of flow rates

knowledge of safety requirements

knowledge of testing procedures

knowledge of water clarity

knowledge of gauges

knowledge of drainage

knowledge of valves

knowledge of manufacturer's specifications

27. Performing heater care and maintenance

knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of testing procedures and requirements

knowledge of system design

- knowledge of system capacity
- knowledge of temperature measurements
- knowledge of effects of temperature knowledge of changes in temperature

knowledge of effects of water chemistry on heater components

knowledge of pool chemistry

knowledge of gas and electric requirements knowledge of flow rates

Content Area L Equipment

10%

1. Using jackhammers

knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of OSHA requirements knowledge of equipment characteristics

2. Using saw cutting machines

knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of OSHA requirements knowledge of equipment characteristics

3. Using bobcats or backhoes

knowledge of SHA requirements knowledge of OSHA requirements knowledge of equipment characteristics knowledge of traffic regulations

4. Using compressors

knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of OSHA requirements knowledge of pressure regulators knowledge of pneumatic tools

5. Using concrete pumps

knowledge of safety requirements knowledge of OSHA requirements knowledge of concrete properties knowledge of concrete procedures knowledge of concrete testing knowledge of concrete placement