

Watertown Department of Public Health

To: Board of Health

From: Carol Quest, Health Officer/Director

Date: February 3, 2026

**Subject: Fee update for Lodging & Recreational Water License
Chemistry Inspection**

Background

2026 DATCP Lodging License Fee Update

As an agent health department of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), our local fees are affected by contractual requirements set forth by DATCP.

We are presenting an updated fee schedule to include the new license categories and updated fees for DATCP lodging facilities.

UPDATED CATEGORIES AND FEES:

In October 2025, the legislature approved the updated ATCP 72 Hotels, Motels, and Tourist Rooming Houses. The new code will have an effective date of January 25, 2026.

The revised ATCP 72 includes increased fees and new and updated license categories. The categories are divided into three different types and leveled by number of keyed units.

As an agent health department, we are required to provide and include the same license categories as provided by ATCP 72. We have attached our updated fee schedule based on ATCP 72 fees and categories. Pre-inspection fees for Tourist Rooming House(s) were adjusted based on internal evaluation of actual cost of staff time and resources. We have applied a 15% reimbursement fee to our base fees to have accurate funds to reimburse DATCP as required by contract.

These new fees will be in effect starting April 1, 2026 as cited in ATCP 72.

2026 Monthly Recreational Water License Chemistry Inspections Update

Monthly chemistry inspections of recreational water licenses are conducted to ensure safe recreational water operations for the public.

Department policy is that recreational water licenses that went **six consecutive months without a closure** for chemistry violation would be removed from monthly chemistry inspections and return to the annual routine inspection schedule. Monthly chemistry inspections would not be restarted unless the chemistry was out of range on the next routine inspection. Currently 21 out of 27 recreational water licenses have been removed from monthly chemistry inspections since that change. There are six recreational water licenses that have been on monthly chemistry inspection for 18 months or longer.

Currently, if a recreational water license is ordered to be closed during a monthly chemistry inspection, a Temporary Order to Cease Operations and a re-inspection fee of \$100.00 is issued. If a second re-inspection is required due to the chemistry being out of range during the re-inspection, a fee of \$150.00 is issued. The temporary order is terminated once the chemistry has been corrected.

RECOMMENDED UPDATED FEES AND PROCEDURE:

Effective July 1st, 2026, recreational water facilities on monthly chemistry inspection that are closed during a visit due to a chemistry violation will be issued a fee for special reinspection for non-compliance of **\$500.00** per closure in accordance with the proposed fee schedule provided. A recreational water license will be placed on monthly chemistry inspection if the water quality standards outlined in ATCP 76.14 are not met during an annual routine inspection, and a notice will be issued to the operator. Recreational water licenses currently on increased chemistry inspection will remain on increased chemistry inspection. Recreational water licenses that fail to correct the water chemistry within the time allotted by a temporary order will be suspended.

Recreational water licenses will remain on monthly chemistry inspection until six consecutive months of acceptable water results are documented by the department. If six consecutive months are not achieved within 12 months of the annual inspection date, the license will be suspended. If the conditions of the suspension order are not met by June 30th of that license year, the license will not be renewed. The fine for operating a recreational water facility without a license is \$500.00 per day.

These fee changes do **not** apply to re-inspections for violations and closure criteria that are **not** related to chemistry. Those fees will remain \$100.00 for the first, and \$150.00 for the second and subsequent re-inspections.

Budget Goal

Encourage community growth by assessing opportunities, involving all stakeholders, environmental needs, modern code and policy priorities.

Financial Impact

The financial impact will be neutral. The increased cost will cover increased staff time required to meet the inspections requirements and the increased reimbursement to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Recommendation

The Department respectfully request your approval of this updated fee schedule, which will ensure that we continue to meet our contractual obligations and provide essential inspection services without disruption.