

Swimming Pools **December 13, 2007**

Effective April 21, 2003, all residential swimming pools will require a notarized, signed Certification of House-Pool Protection Device Installation Form by the homeowner, before the pool permit is issued.

This information handout is intended to cover most common items. For complete details, see the International Residential Code.

1. Swimming pool construction shall neither disrupt utility services nor impede the flow of traffic on city right-of-ways.
2. All excavation materials shall be disposed of in an approved landfill.
3. Outdoor appliances shall be installed according to manufacturer's specifications and in compliance with the corresponding code.
4. The excavation area must be protected at all times with fencing material four feet (4') in height.
5. An outdoor swimming pool shall be provided with a barrier that shall be installed, inspected and approved prior to plastering or filling with water. The barrier shall comply with the following:
 - A. The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches (1219mm) above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches (51mm) measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance at the bottom of the barrier may be increased to 4 inches (102mm) when grade is a solid surface such as a concrete deck, or when the barrier is mounted on the top of the aboveground pool structure. When barriers have exterior horizontal members spaced less than 45 inches (1143 mm) apart, the horizontal members shall be placed on the pool side of the barrier, or have a 45 degree bevel on the second horizontal member away from grade. Any decorative design work on the side away from the swimming pool, such as protrusions, indentations or cutouts, which render the barrier easily climbable, is prohibited.
 - B. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102mm) sphere.

EXCEPTIONS:

- When vertical spacing between such openings is 45 inches (1143 mm) or more, the opening size may be increased such that the passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere is not allowed.
 - For fencing composed of vertical and horizontal members, the spacing between vertical members may be increased up to 4 inches (102 mm) when the distance between the tops of horizontal members is 45 inches (1143 mm) or more.
- C. Chain link fences are prohibited as pool barriers.
 - D. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Items A through C. Pedestrian access gates shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the bottom of the gate, (1) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the barrier at least 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate, and (2) the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than 1/2 inch (13 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism. Pedestrian gates shall swing away from the pool. Any gates other than pedestrian access gates shall be equipped with lockable hardware of padlocks and shall remain locked at all times when not in use.



Example:

- Electric/solar/battery operated gates over driveways.
- A separate barrier with a self-closing and self-latching gate is required between the pool and the driveway and garage door in the above mentioned example.
- “Protect-a-child” fence systems are not permitted in lieu of a permanent barrier.
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Note of High Importance!

Electric/solar/battery operated gates are not equivalent to self-closing, self-latching pedestrian gates.

- E. Reserved.
- F. Where an aboveground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps, then (1) the ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access or (2) the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of Items A through E. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall be protected by a barrier complying with Items A through E.
6. A separate permit is required for fence construction. This is not included in the pool permit (except for fences less than 20' in length).
7. A 3" P-trap is required to be installed on the sewer for all pool installations. A pump discharge line must be connected to the P-trap with an air break and run to the pool pump.
8. Retaining walls of 4' or more in height require a separate permit.
9. All pools shall comply with AG106 for Entrapment Protection as follows:
- A. Suction outlets shall be designed to produce circulation throughout the pool or spa. Single-outlet systems, such as automatic vacuum cleaner systems, or multiple suction outlets, whether isolated by valves or otherwise, shall be protected against user entrapment.
 - B. Pool and spa suction outlets shall have a cover that conforms to ANSI/ASME A112.19.8M, or an 18 inch x 23 inch (457 mm by 584 mm) drain grate or larger, or an approved channel drain system. Exception: Surface skimmers.
 - C. Pool and spa single -or multiple-outlet circulation systems shall be equipped with atmospheric vacuum relief should grate covers located therein become missing or broken. This vacuum relief system shall include at least one approved or engineered method of the type specified herein, as follows:
 1. Safety vacuum release system conforming to ASME A112.19.17; or
 2. An approved gravity drainage system.
 - D. Single or multiple pump circulation systems have a minimum of two suction outlets of the approved type. A minimum horizontal or vertical distance of 3 feet (914 mm) shall separate the outlets. These suction outlets shall be piped so that water is drawn through them simultaneously through a vacuum-relief-protected line to the pump or pumps.
 - E. Where provided, vacuum or pressure cleaner fitting(s) shall be located in an accessible position(s) at least 6 inches (152 mm) and not more than 12 inches (305 mm) below the minimum operational water level or as an attachment to the skimmer(s).