

SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS

SWIMMING POOL is defined as any contained body of water 18 inches (457 mm) or more in depth at any point and that is wider than 8 feet (2400 mm) at any point. This includes in-ground, above ground and on-ground swimming pools and hot tubs and spas.

BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

The provisions of this chapter shall control the design of barriers for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. These design controls are intended to provide protection against potential drownings and near drownings by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

An **outdoor swimming pool**, including an in-ground, above-ground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa shall be surrounded by a barrier which shall comply with the following:

1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 60 inches (1524 mm) above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The top of the barrier that separates the swimming pool only from habitable spaces on the same property shall be at least 48 inches (1219 mm) 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 (51 mm). The maximum vertical clearance at the bottom of the barrier may be increased to 4 inches (102 mm) when grade is a solid surface such as concrete. The barrier shall be at least 20 inches from the water's edge.
2. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4 inch diameter (102 mm) sphere. Any decorative design work such as protrusions, indentations or cutouts which make the barrier easily climbable is prohibited.
3. Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.
4. There shall be at least 45" inches between horizontal elements.
5. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2¹/₄ inch (57 mm) square unless the fence has slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to not more than 1³/₄ inches (44 mm). Chain link fencing shall not be less than 11 gauge.
6. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall not be more than 1³/₄ inches (44 mm).
7. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of this section, Items 1 through 6, and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall be lockable. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism and openings shall comply with the following:
 - 7.1. The release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate; and
 - 7.2. The gate and barrier shall have no opening larger than 1/2 inch (13 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism.

8. Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following conditions shall be met:
 - 8.1. In lieu of the barrier between the dwelling and the swimming pool, the swimming pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F1346; or
 - 8.2. Doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm shall be listed in accordance with UL 2017. The audible alarm shall activate within 7 seconds and sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds after the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened and be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal household activities. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm system shall be equipped with a manual means, such as touch pad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch(es) shall be located at least 54 inches (1372 mm) above the threshold of the door; or
 - 8.3. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the governing body, shall be acceptable so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Item 8.1 or 8.2 described above. Self-closing and self latching devices shall be installed on all doors with direct access to the pool area, with the release mechanism located a minimum of fifty-four inches above the floor.
9. Where an above-ground 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:
 - 9.1. The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access; or
 - 9.2. The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of this section, Items 1 through 9. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4 inch diameter (102 mm) sphere.
10. Pet doors which provide direct access to the pool area are prohibited unless they meet the requirements of item 2 or are equipped with an alarm that meets item 8.2.
11. Windows with access to the pool areas will be protected in the following ways:
 1. Emergency escape or rescue windows from sleeping areas with access to the swimming pool will be equipped with a latching device not less than 54 inches (1372 mm) above the floor.
 2. All other openable windows with similar access will also be equipped with a latching device not less than 54 inches (1372 mm) above the floor or shall be equipped with key lock device that prevents opening the window more than 4 inches (102 mm).

Walls surrounding an **indoor swimming pool** shall comply with Item 8.

Barriers shall be located to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb them.

Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346 shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.