

General Residential Swimming Pool Code Requirements

(Pools 24" in depth or greater)

Barrier height and clearances All pools shall be protected by a 48" high barrier that surrounds the pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches measured on the side of the pool which faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade the barrier is authorized to be at ground level or mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches.

Openings Any openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.

Closely spaced horizontal members Where a combination of horizontal and vertical members is used as a barrier and the horizontal members tops are less than 45 inches the horizontal members shall be on the pool side. The vertical member spacing shall not exceed 1.75 inches in width. Any decorative cutouts in the vertical members shall not be wider than 1.75 inches.

Widely spaced horizontal members Where the barrier has horizontal members and the tops of the members are 45 inches or greater apart the vertical members shall not exceed 4" in spacing. Decorative cutouts within the vertical members shall not exceed 1.75 inches in width.

Chain link dimensions Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2.25-inch square.

Diagonal members Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be no more than 1.75

Gates Access gates shall comply with all of the member spacing requirements noted for the type of barrier. They shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device and shall be self-closing with a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate, and the barrier shall have no opening greater than ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.

Dwelling unit used as part of a barrier When the dwelling unit is used as part of a barrier one of the following shall apply:

- 1.) Doors that have direct access to the pool shall be equipped with an audible alarm that gives a warning when the door and it's screen are opened. The alarm shall sound continuously for at least 30 seconds after the door is open and must be heard throughout the house during normal activities. The alarm shall be automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm shall be equipped with a manual means to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening and the deactivation shall last no more than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch shall be at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door.
- 2.) The pool shall be equipped with a power safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346.

Pool structure as a barrier When 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 the ladder or steps shall either be capable of being secured locked or removed to prevent access, or the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a

barrier which meets the requirements of a barrier by applying the code issues to the design of the barrier constructed. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4inch diameter sphere.