

# Swimming Pools & Spas

## **DO I NEED A PERMIT?**

Any swimming pool, spa or hot tub over 24" in depth requires a permit. Permits can be obtained from the Building Division.

To obtain a permit you must complete an application, submit documentation about your pool/spa/hot tub and the barriers surrounding the pool/spa/hot tub. You will need to submit:

1. A plot plan that shows the location of all buildings, electrical connections/bonding, barriers/fences and the pool/spa/hot tub.
2. The depth of the pool.
3. The height of the barrier(s). Barriers and access gates must meet the requirements as listed.

One electrical inspection is included with this permit. Manufacturer's installation instructions/ specifications must be available to the inspector on site.

## **BARRIERS:**

- A barrier is required for any swimming pool/spa or hot tub which is 24" or more in depth. Barriers must be a minimum of 48" above grade when measured on the side of the barrier facing away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance at the bottom of the barrier is 2". If the barrier is 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".
- Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4" diameter (102 mm) sphere. Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as masonry or stone wall shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.
- Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45" (1143 mm) the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1.75" (44 mm) in width. Where the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45" (1143 mm) or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4" (102 mm).
- Where there are decorative cutouts, the spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75" (44 mm) in width.
- Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2.25" (57 mm) square unless the fence is provided by slats fastened at the top or bottom which reduces the openings to not more than 1.75" in width.
- If 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 1.75" (44 mm).
- 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 the ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access or the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier. This barrier shall meet the same requirements as listed previously. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4" (102 mm) sphere.
- Access gates shall comply with the same requirements as barriers 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 have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54" (1372 mm) from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism and openings shall comply with the following:
  - The release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3" (76 mm) below the top of the gate, and
  - The gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than 0.5" (12.7 mm) within 18" (457 mm) of the release mechanism.
- Where the wall of a dwelling serves a part of the barrier, or if it is an indoor pool, one of the following conditions shall be met:
  1. The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F1346 or
  2. All 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 its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm shall sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds immediately after the door is opened and be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal household activities. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarms system shall be equipped with a manual means, such as touch-pad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch(es) shall be located at least 54" (1372 mm) above the threshold of the door; or
  3. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the building official shall be acceptable so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by the means described above in item 1 or 2.

## **Prohibited locations:**

Barriers shall be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers.

## **Barrier exceptions:**

Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346 shall be exempt from these provisions.

## **ENTRAPMENT PROTECTION FOR SWIMMING POOL AND SPA SUCTION OUTLETS**

Suction outlets shall be designed to produce circulation throughout the pool or spa. Single outlet systems such as automatic vacuum cleaner systems, or other such multiple suction outlets whether isolated by valves or otherwise shall be protected against user entrapment.

All pool and spa suction outlets shall be provided with a cover that conforms with ANSI/ASME A112.19.8M or a 12" x 12" drain grate or larger, or an approved channel drain system.

**Exception:** Surface skimmers

All 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. Such vacuum relief systems 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.

Single or multiple pump circulation systems shall be provided with a minimum of two (2) suction outlets of the approved type. A minimum horizontal or vertical distance of three (3) feet shall separate such 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.

Where provided, vacuum or pressure cleaner fitting(s) shall be located in a accessible position(s) at least six (6) inches and not greater than twelve (12) inches below the minimum operational water level or as an attachment to the skimmer(s).

**Electric service to pool, spa or hot tub:**

Please be aware all pool, spa, and hot tub, hydromassage tubs, etc. are required to be protected by ground-fault circuit-interrupters (GFCI). In addition, a proper bonding grid must be installed for YOUR protection and to comply with the National Electrical Code (NEC).

All receptacles which provide power for this equipment must be located at least 10' from the inside walls of the pool, hot tub, etc. or not less than 6' from pool wall if utilizing a single twist-lock device protected by GFCI.

Applications are available in the Code Enforcement and Inspection Permitting office, online or by email. Our office is located on the first floor of City Hall across from the Customer Accounting office.

Remember when applying to bring with you the following items:

- ❖ A plot plan showing the placement of the pool, hot tub or spa and its barrier on your property, the location of electrical connections and bonding and the location of all buildings on the lot.
- ❖ Description of the pool, hot tub or spa including depth.
- ❖ Description of the barrier in detail so the plan reviewer/inspector can determine compliance with the code.
- ❖ Completed application.
- ❖ The application fee of \$50.50.

If you have any questions please contact our office at 419-627-5940.

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