

# RESIDENTIAL POOL BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

BASED ON THE 2012 INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING POOL AND SPA CODE – EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017

APPLICABLE TO INDOOR SWIMMING POOLS AND TO OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS, HOT TUBS AND OTHER AQUATIC VESSELS OVER 12 INCHES IN DEPTH, DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED TO BE CONNECTED TO A CIRCULATION SYSTEM

## 1. BARRIER HEIGHT AND CLEARANCES.

- A) The top of the barrier shall be not less than 48 inches above grade measured from the outside of the barrier. Height shall be maintained horizontally from the outside of the barrier for a distance of 3 feet.
- B) The vertical clearance between the bottom of the barrier and the grade below shall be a maximum of 2 inches for non-solid surfaces, such as grass or gravel, and 4 inches for solid surfaces, such as concrete.
- C) Where the barrier is mounted on the pool wall, such as on an on ground pool, the distance between the bottom of the barrier and the pool wall shall be a maximum of 4 inches.

2. **OPENINGS.** Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4 inch diameter sphere.

3. **SOLID BARRIER SURFACES.** Solid barrier surfaces shall not contain indentations or protrusions that form handholds or footholds, except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.

4. **BARRIERS COMPOSED OF VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL MEMBERS.** Where the horizontal members are less than 45 inches apart, the space between the vertical members shall not exceed  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches and the horizontal members shall be located on the inside of the barrier. Where the horizontal members are 45 inches or more apart, the space between the vertical members shall not allow the passage of a 4 inch sphere.

5. **BARRIERS COMPOSED OF DIAGONAL MEMBERS.** Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, the space between the members shall not exceed  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches and the angle of the members shall not exceed 45 degrees from vertical.

6. **CHAIN LINK DIMENSIONS.** The maximum opening formed by a chain link fence shall not exceed  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

7. **MESH BARRIERS.** Mesh fences, other than chain link fences, shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall comply with the following:

- A) The vertical clearance between the bottom of the fence and the grade below shall be a maximum of 1 inch for non-solid surfaces, and 4 inches for solid surfaces.
- B) The fence shall be designed and constructed so as to not permit the fence to be lifted more than 4 inches.
- C) Openings in the fence shall not allow passage of a 4 inch sphere.
- D) Mesh fences shall not be used on top of on ground pools.

- 8. CLEAR ZONE.** There shall be a clear zone of not less than 36" around the exterior of the barrier, free of any permanent structures or equipment that can be used to climb the barrier.
- 9. POOLSIDE SETBACKS.** Barriers shall be placed not less than 20 inches from the water's edge, except for pool wall mounted barriers.
- 10. GATES.** Gates shall comply with items **#1** through **#9** above, as applicable, and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. The gate shall be self-closing, self-latching and shall open toward the outside of the barrier.
- 11. GATE LATCHES.** Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from grade, the mechanism shall be located on the inside of the gate no less than 3 inches below the top of the gate and there shall be no openings greater than ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.
- 12. UTILITY OR SERVICE GATES.** Gates not intended for pedestrian use shall comply with items **#1** through **#9** above, as applicable, and shall remain locked when not in use.
- 13. DOUBLE OR MULTIPLE GATES.** At least one leaf of double or multiple gates shall be secured in place and the adjacent leaf shall be secured with a self-latching device. The self-latching device shall comply with item **#11** above.
- 14. DWELLING OR STRUCTURE WALL AS THE BARRIER.** Where the wall of a dwelling or structure serves as part of the barrier, doors and operable windows with a sill height of less than 48 inches within such wall shall be equipped with an alarm that produces an audible warning when the door, including screen doors, or a window is opened. The alarm shall be listed and labeled as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017. The deactivation switch shall be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door. NOTE: The alarms are not required if the pool, spa or hot tub is equipped with a safety cover that is listed and labeled in accordance with ASTM F 1346.
- 15. POOL STRUCTURE AS THE BARRIER.** Where an on-ground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the pool barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the following shall apply:
  - A) An on-ground pool wall shall be permitted to be the barrier where the pool wall is at least 48 inches above grade for the entire perimeter of the pool and complies with items **#1** through **#9** above, as applicable.
  - B) Where the means of access is a ladder or steps, the ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access or the ladder or steps shall be within a barrier complying with items **#1** through **#9** above, as applicable.
  - C) When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4 inch diameter sphere.