



STORABLE SWIMMING POOLS

Building Permit Requirements

City of Warren, Pennsylvania



This packet contains general requirements that should be considered as part of your project and should not be considered as a complete list of all code requirements. All new swimming pools shall be constructed and installed in accordance with *Chapter 42* and *Appendix G* of the *2009 International Residential Code*. Any existing pool must also comply with the barrier requirements of the City of Warren Property Maintenance Code #1735.

Permits

A building permit is required for the construction or installation of any swimming pool that is capable of holding a depth of 24 inches or more of water. This includes any portable, storable swimming pool. Any pool that contains a filter system, heater or electrical lighting also requires a building permit. A building permit must be obtained before any construction or installation may begin or for any pool previously installed without a building permit.

Application Process

The following information must be submitted when applying for a building permit:

- Completed building permit application.**
- A scaled plot plan of the lot showing the following:**
 - Proposed pool location – show distances to property lines and adjacent structures.
 - House and adjacent structures including existing decks and patios.
 - Location of overhead or underground utility lines and easements. Show horizontal and vertical distance from edge of pool or spa to all adjacent electric lines.
 - Location, size and heights of all barrier enclosures including fences, and gates. Show location of all doors leading directly to pool area.
 - Location of gas lines, pool heaters, pumps, electrical: wiring, boxes, lighting and receptacles associated with the pool. Show distance from pool to these features.
 - Location of any deck constructed in conjunction with the pool. (A separate permit is required to be obtained for the construction of a deck.)

The completed permit application and plans must be submitted to the City of Warren Building Code Department for review. The application can be dropped off or mailed to the Building Code Department which is located at 318 West Third Avenue, Warren, PA 16365. Once the application has been reviewed and approved, the applicant will be contacted to pick up their permit. Upon receipt of payment, the applicant will be issued a permit placard which must be displayed throughout the construction process. Construction cannot begin until the applicant obtains and displays the permit placard.

Inspections

All work needs to be inspected prior to coverage or concealment. A 24-hour advance notice is required when scheduling inspections. Call the Building Code Department at (814) 723-6300 to schedule an inspection appointment. Depending on the type of pool, some of the inspections listed below may not be applicable. The permit applicant will be advised when the permit is issued as to what inspections will be required.

- All required electrical equipment and installations must be inspected.
- A final inspection of the pool installation and required barriers must be performed upon completion and **before the pool is filled with water.**

Location

Pools must not be placed below or above utility lines or within any easements. Portable, storable pools must be placed in the same location that was permitted each year. Any changes to the pool location, electrical service or barriers will require a new building permit. Local zoning regulations may also dictate where the pool can be located on the property.

Barrier Requirements

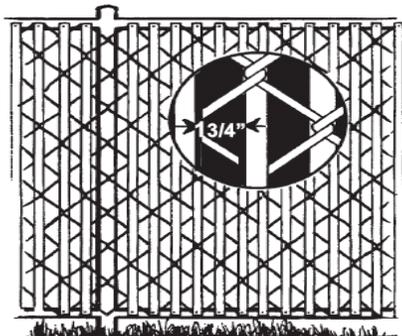
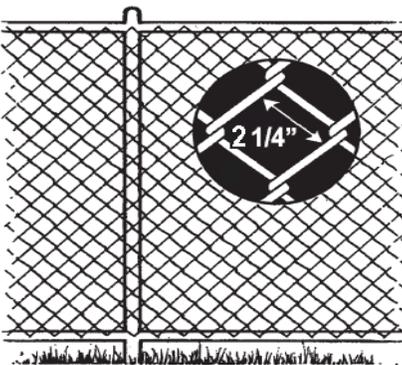
All pools and spas must be provided with safeguards to prevent children from gaining uncontrolled access to the pool or spa. To successfully restrict access to the pool or spa, an approved barrier must be constructed. A successful pool barrier prevents a child from getting **OVER**, **UNDER** or **THROUGH** and keeps the child from gaining access to the pool except when supervising adults are present.

The height of the barrier or fence must be at least **48 inches** above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the pool.



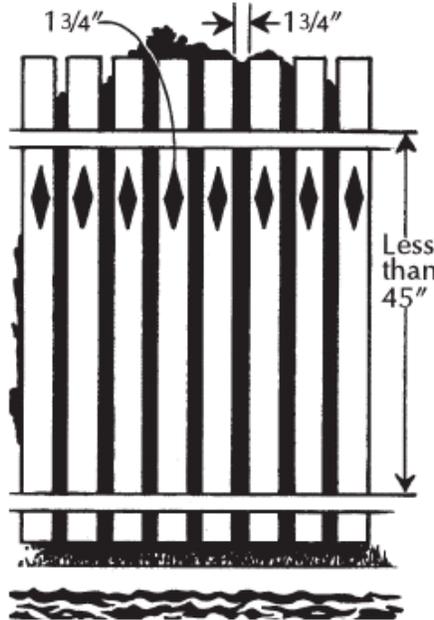
For a Chain Link Fence:

The mesh size should not exceed 2-1/4 inch square unless the fence has slats fastened at the top or bottom which reduces the openings to not more than 1-3/4 inches in width.



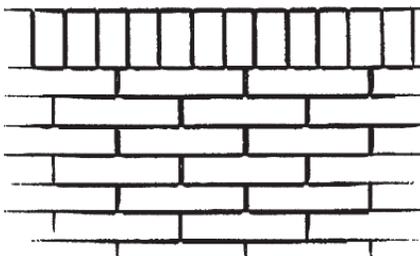
For a Barrier (Fence) Made Up of Horizontal and Vertical Members:

If the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is **less** than 45 inches, the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. The spacing between the vertical members shall not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within the vertical members in the fence, the spacing within the cutouts must not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width.

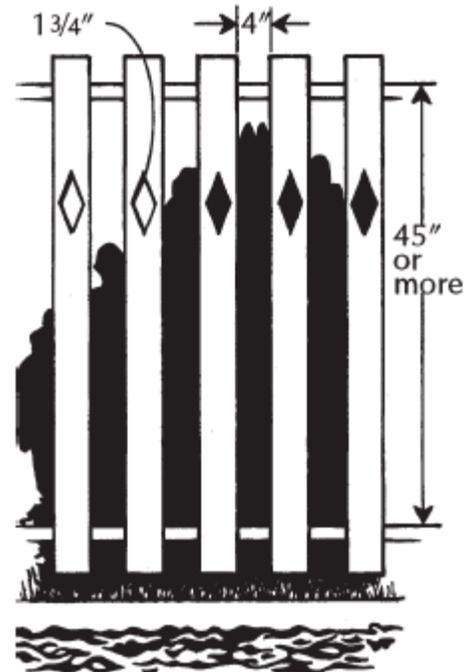


For a solid barrier:

No indentations or protrusions should be present, other than normal construction tolerances and masonry joints.

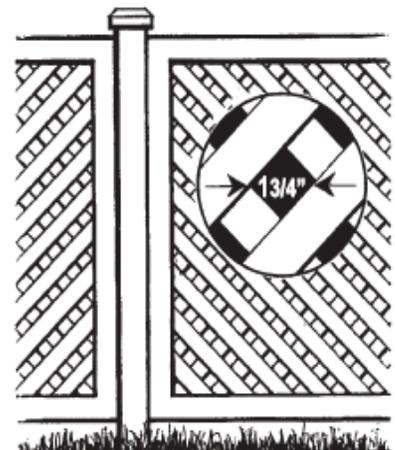


If the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is **more** than 45 inches, the spacing between vertical members must not exceed 4 inches in width.



For a Fence Made Up of Diagonal Members (Latticework):

The maximum opening in the lattice should not exceed 1-3/4 inches

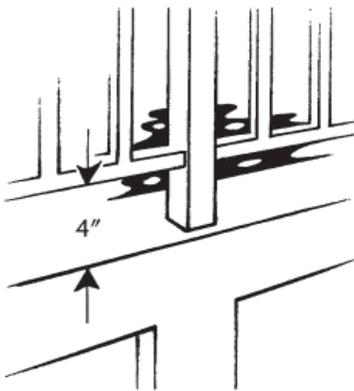


For any pool barrier, The clearance between the bottom of the fence and finished ground level must not exceed 2 inches on the side of the barrier facing away from the pool.

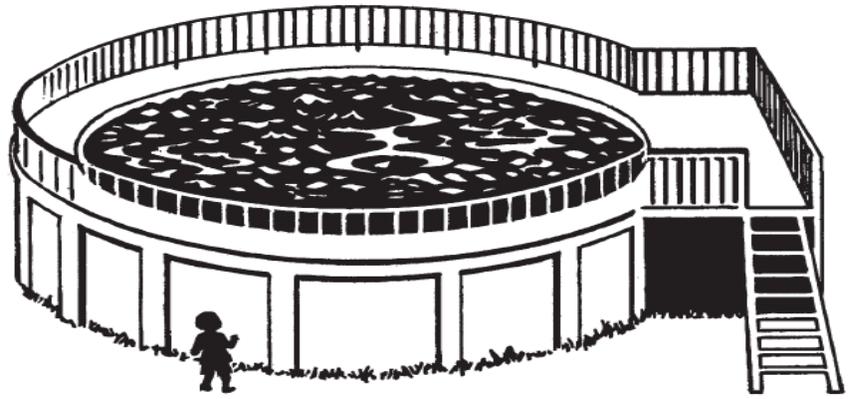


Aboveground Pool with Barrier on Top of Pool:

The maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches.

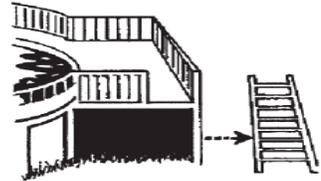


To prevent a child from getting through a fence or other barrier, all openings should be small enough so that a 4-inch diameter sphere cannot pass through.

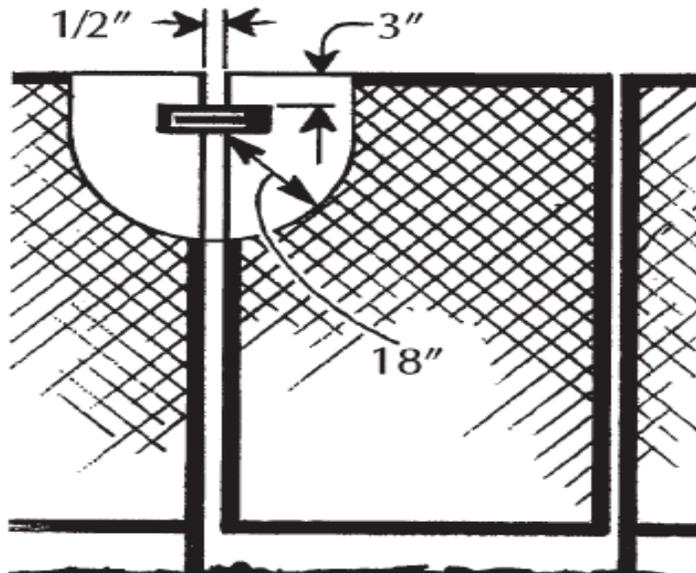


Above-ground pools must have barriers unless the structure itself meets the barrier height requirements. **The walls of portable, storable pools that are formed by the height of the water, require a solid barrier regardless of its size.**

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, the ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access. Permanently installed ladders or steps must be protected by an approved fence and gate.



Gates located in the enclosure must swing away from the pool and have a self-closing and self-latching device. Where the release mechanism self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism shall be located on the poolside of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate. The gate and barrier must have no opening greater than 1/2 inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism. This prevents a child from reaching over the top of the gate and releasing the latch.



When the House Wall Forms Part of the Pool Barrier:

In many homes, doors open directly onto the pool area or onto a deck or patio which leads to the pool. In such cases, the wall of the house is an important part of the pool barrier, and passage through any doors in the house wall must be controlled by security measures. All doors which give access to a swimming pool, must be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and/or screen are opened. The alarm shall activate within 7 seconds after the door is opened and sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds after the door is opened and must be able to be heard throughout the house. The alarm must automatically reset under all conditions.

Because adults will want to pass through house doors in the pool barrier without setting off the alarm, the alarm must be equipped with a manual touch pad or switch that allows adults to temporarily deactivate the alarm for up to 15 seconds. The deactivation touch pad or switch must be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door covered by the alarm.



Approved power safety covers can also be installed on pools to serve as security barriers. Spas or hot tubs installed with an approved safety cover are exempt from the above barrier requirements.

Electrical Installations

All electrical wiring for swimming pools must be installed in accordance with *Chapter 42* of the *2009 International Residential Code*:

- Receptacles shall be located not less than 6 feet from the inside walls of a pool. In determining these dimensions, the distance to be measured shall be the shortest path that the supply cord of an appliance connected to the receptacle would follow without passing through a floor, wall, ceiling, doorway with hinged or sliding door, window opening, or other effective permanent barrier.
- Electrical equipment, including power-supply cords, used with storable pools shall be protected by ground-fault circuit-interrupters. All 125-volt receptacles located within 20 feet of the inside walls of a storable pool shall be protected by a ground-fault circuit interrupter. In determining these dimensions, the distance to be measured shall be the shortest path that the supply cord of an appliance connected to the receptacle would follow without passing through a floor, wall, ceiling, doorway with hinged or sliding door, window opening, or other effective permanent barrier.
- Extension cords are not permitted to be used to extend the reach of a storable pool's filter motor cord.
- Underground wiring must be installed in rigid metal conduit, intermediate metal conduit, nonmetallic raceway or direct burial cable. Rigid or intermediate metal conduit must be buried a minimum of 6 inches below grade. Direct burial cable must be buried a minimum of 12 inches below grade.
- Pools must be located so that there is at least a 10-foot horizontal clearance from the edge of the pool to any overhead power line and at least a 5-foot horizontal clearance from the edge of the pool to any underground electrical wiring.

Underground Utility Lines

Care should be taken when excavating to minimize potential problems with buried gas, water, sewer and underground electrical lines. Applicants must obtain assistance regarding the location of underground utilities by calling Pennsylvania One Call at 1-800-242-1776 three business days in advance of any digging to have underground utilities located.

For other assistance and information, contact:
The City of Warren Building Code Department
318 W. Third Avenue Warren, PA 16365
Phone: (814) 723-6300 Fax: (814) 723-3242
www.cityofwarrenpa.gov