



City of Ontario

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUB BARRIERS

GENERAL

The provisions of this section apply to the design and construction of barriers for swimming pools, spas and hot tubs to be used by a single family and their guests.

DEFINITIONS

1. Barrier: A fence, wall, building wall, safety cover complying with American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) Standard F 1346, swimming pool alarms complying with ASTM Standard F2208 or a combination thereof, which completely surrounds the swimming pool and obstructs access to the swimming pool, spa or hot tub. When approved by the enforcement agency, barriers may also incorporate natural or man-made features, such as topography, waterways, restricted areas and similar features including geographically isolated areas which provide an effective access barrier to the pool area.
2. Grade: The underlying surface, such as earth or a walking surface.
3. Hot Tub: See definition of spa.
4. Separation Fence: A barrier which separates all doors of a dwelling unit or building accessory thereto with direct access to a swimming pool, spa, or hot tub from that swimming pool, spa or hot tub.
5. Spa: A structure intended for recreational bathing, designed to contain water over 18 inches (457mm) deep and outside dimensions not exceeding 160 square feet (14.72 sq. meters).
6. Swimming Pool: Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that is designed to contain water over 18 inches (457mm) deep. This includes in-ground, above-ground and on-ground swimming pools and fixed-in place wading pools and excludes spas.
7. Swimming Pool (Outdoor): Swimming pool that is totally outside the residential structure.

BARRIER REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL

1. An outdoor swimming pool, hot tub or spa shall be provided with a barrier. With respect to the installation or construction of an outdoor swimming pool, spa or hot tub, prior to plastering and filling with water, the barrier and alarms must be installed, inspected and approved.

2. Outdoor swimming pools with safety pool covers that comply with the ASTM Standard F1346 need not be protected with other barriers.
3. When barriers are required, it shall comply with the followings:

- A. The top of the barrier shall be as least 60 inches (1219mm) above grade measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches (51mm) measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. This vertical clearance may be increased to 4 inches (102mm) when the grade is an impenetrable solid surface such as a concrete deck.

Where the barrier is mounted on top of an above-ground pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches. When barriers have horizontal members and their tops are spaced less than 45 inches (1143mm) apart, these horizontal members shall be placed on the pool side of the barrier, and the spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1-1/4 inches in width.

Any decorative design work on the side away from the swimming pool, such as protrusions, indentations or cutouts, which render the barrier easily climbable, is prohibited.

B. Exceptions:

- 1) For fencing composed of vertical and horizontal members, the spacing between vertical members may be increased due to 4 inches (102mm) when the distance between the tops of horizontal members is 45 inches (1143mm) or more.
- 2) Existing fences surrounding a property at the pool area, which are at least 60 inches above grade, measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool, have a maximum vertical clearance of 2 inches between grade and the bottom of the barrier and have no openings that will allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere are permitted.

- C. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of 3A and 3B. Pedestrian access gates shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. The release mechanism of the self-latching device is to be placed not less than 60 inches (1219mm) from the bottom of the gate. Pedestrian gates shall swing away from the pool. Any gates other than pedestrian access gates shall be equipped with lockable hardware of padlocks and shall remain locked at all times when not in use.

- D. Where the wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier and contains door openings providing direct access to the pool, those door openings shall be protected by one of the following means:

- 1) A self-closing and self-latching device installed on all doors with the release mechanism located a minimum of 54 inches (1372mm) above the floor.
- 2) An alarm that makes audible, continuous alarm sounds when any door that permits access from the residence to the pool is opened or is left ajar.

- E. 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, then: (1) the ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access, or (2) the ladder or steps shall be

surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of Items A through D. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall be protected by a barrier complying with Items A through D.

- F. Swimming pool alarms that, when placed in pools, will sound upon detection of entrance into the water. These pool alarms shall meet ASTM Standard F2208

SPAS AND HOT TUBS

A spa or hot tub with a locking safety cover that complies with the ASTM Standard F 1346, shall not be required to provide other barriers. Where a locking safety cover is not provided, the spa or hot tub shall be protected with barriers complying with the requirements of Items 3A through 3E.