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Barrier (fence) Requirements for Outdoor Residential Swimming Pools

Brief summary of Barrier Requirements for Outdoor Residential Swimming Pools:

The term “**Swimming Pool**” means any structure intended for swimming, recreational bathing or wading which contains or which is designed to contain water over 24 inches deep. This includes in-ground and above-ground pools; indoor pools; hot tubs; spas; and fixed-in-place wading pools.

The barrier must completely surround the swimming pool and must obstruct access to the swimming pool.

The barrier must be at least 4 feet (48 inches) high.

In the case of an above-ground pool, the barrier may be at ground level or mounted on top of the pool structure; however, if the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the space between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier cannot exceed 4 inches.

A building wall can form part of the required barrier. However, where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, at least one of the following requirements must be satisfied:

- the pool must be equipped with a powered safety cover.
- all doors with direct access to the pool through that wall must be equipped with an alarm or other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the governing body.

In the case of an above-ground pool, the pool structure itself can serve as a part of the required barrier, provided that the pool structure is sufficiently rigid to obstruct access to the pool. However, 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:

- 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.
- when the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch-diameter sphere.

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