

**Requirements for Residential:** Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs

**Barrier Requirements**

**Application**. The requirements of this code shall control the design of barriers for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. These designs controls are intended to provide protection against potential drownings and near-drownings by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

**Outdoor swimming pool.** An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground, above- ground and on-ground pool, hot tub or spa, shall be surrounded by a barrier which shall comply with the following:

1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches (1219mm) above grade measured on the side barrier which 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. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an above ground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as a pool structure or mounted on top of the pool structure. Where 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 inches (102mm).Openings in the barrier shall not allow the passage of a 4 inch diameter (102mm) sphere.
2. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of the above items, 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 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 inches (1372mm) from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism and opening shall comply with the following:
3. The release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches (76mm) below the top of the gate.
4. The gate and barrier shall have no openings larger than ½ inch (12.7mm) within 18 inches (457mm) of the release mechanism.
5. Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following conditions shall be met:
6. The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F 1346.
7. Doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door/ or its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2017. The deactivation device switch shall be located at least 54 inches (1372mm) above the threshold of the door.
8. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the governing body, shall be acceptable as long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by items A and B described herein.
9. Where an above-ground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and means of access is a ladder or steps:
10. The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access.
11. The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of items 1 and 2. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not have the passage of a 4 inch diameter (102mm) sphere.

**Indoor swimming pool.** Walls surrounding an indoor swimming pools shall comply with item 3. **Barrier exemptions.** Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover which comply with ASTM F 1346 shall be exempt from these requirements.