



Borough of Doylestown Building and Zoning Department
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FACT SHEET #1 – POOL & SPA BARRIERS

BACKGROUND

The provisions of the PAUCC, ICC Property Maintenance Code, and the Borough of Doylestown Code of Ordinance shall control the requirement for, and the design of, barriers for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. These design controls are intended to provide protection against potential drownings and near-drownings by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

DEFINITIONS Swimming Pool- Any structure that is intended for recreational bathing of swimming that contains water deeper than 24 inches. This includes, including an in-ground swimming pools, above-ground or on-ground pools, hot tub and spa. **Note that this includes inflatable pools.**

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

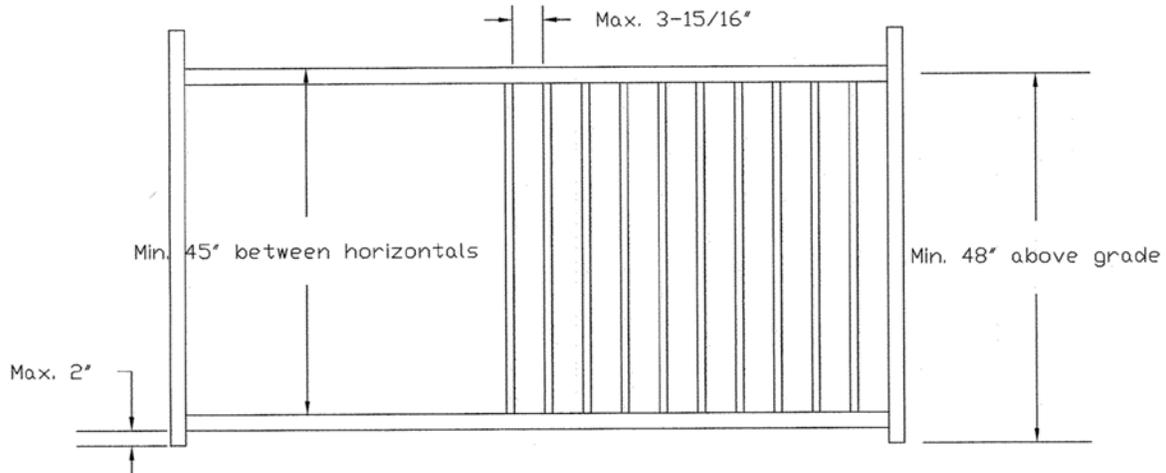
Installation of any swimming pool, including an in-ground, above-ground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa and pool fence require permits. Visit www.doylestownborough.net for more information.

POOL BARRIER REQUIREMENT

Outdoor swimming pools, including an in-ground, above-ground or 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 above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool.
2. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool.
3. 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 the 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.
4. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter sphere.
5. Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.
6. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and 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. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in width.

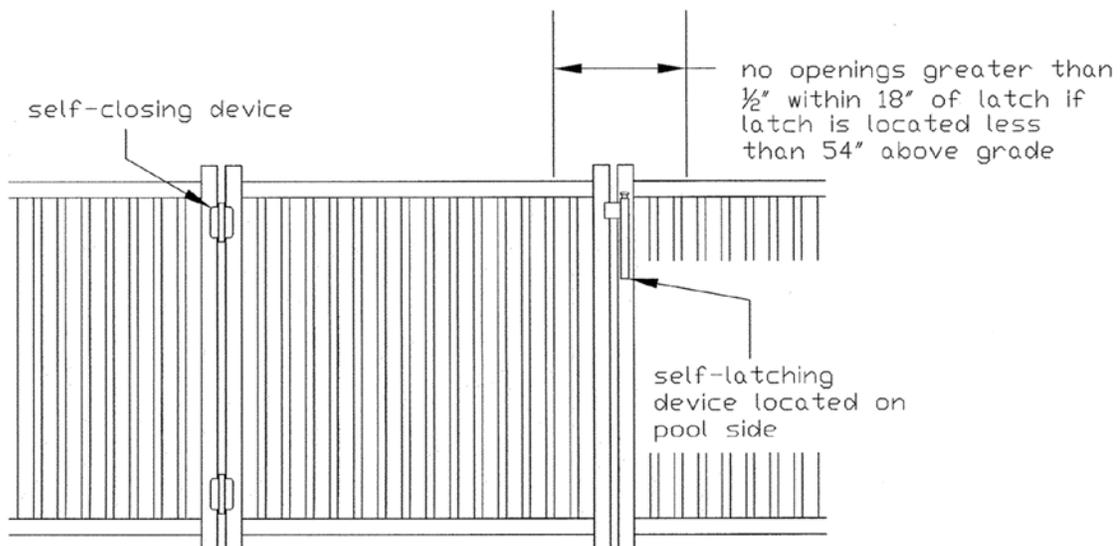
7. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops and the horizontal members in 45 inches or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 ¾ inches in width.
8. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall not be more than 1 ¾ inches.



Access Gates

Access gates shall comply with the requirements above 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 a 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 from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism and openings shall comply with the following:

1. The release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate; and
2. The gate and barrier shall have no openings larger than ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.



Direct Access to Pool from House

Where the wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following conditions shall be met:

1. The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F 1346; or
2. Doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible alarm warning when the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened. Deactivation switches shall be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door; or
3. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the governing body, shall be accepted so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded above.

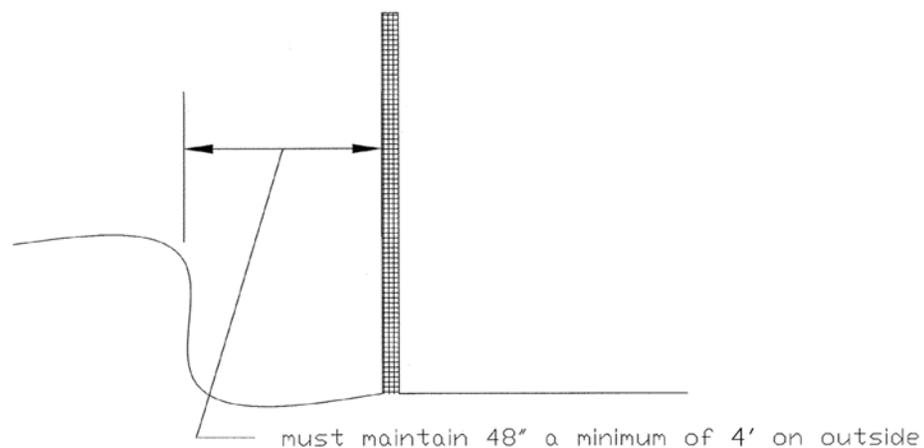
Above-Ground Pool

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:

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

Prohibited Barrier Locations

Barriers shall be located to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb them. All barriers shall be a minimum of 4 feet from any grade or structure that does not maintain a height of at least 48 inches of protection.



Barrier Exceptions

Only spas and hot tubs with a safety cover, which complies with ASTM F 1346, may be used without a barrier required from the sections above.

Permit Required for Pool and/ or Fence Installation A permit is required for the installation of a fence and or a hot tub or a pool. Failure to secure a permit before installation may impose violations, fines and necessitate the removal of installed structures.

The information provided in this guide is intended only to assist residents in understanding the code requirements for swimming pools.