



Land Use Services Department Building & Safety Division

Swimming Pool, Spa and Hot Tub Barrier Requirements

Glass doors and windows within 5 feet of the water's edge and less than 5 feet above grade shall have safety glass

Pedestrian access gates shall swing AWAY from the pool area and be self-closing and self-latching (See Page 3 for details)

Doors providing direct access from the home to the pool area shall be equipped with exit alarms OR with self-closing and self-latching devices mounted not lower than 54 inches above the floor (See Note #1)

Where stepping condition exists (See Note #3)

The door from the garage to the pool area shall be self-closing with a self-latching device mounted not lower than 54" above the floor

Doors or Gates, other than pedestrian gates, (See Note #4)

Pool cover, see note #2

Clearance from pool structures shall comply with section 680.8 of the 2016 CEC

5'-0" minimum fence height (as measured from OPPOSITE the pool) All pool fence barriers must be NON-CLIMBABLE (See page 3 for details)

The information provided in this handout is a summary of the swimming pool safety requirements contained in Chapter 31 of the 2016 California Building Code as modified by the Swimming Pool Safety Act, California Health and Safety Code, and San Bernardino County.



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Notes: Swimming Pool, Spa and Hot Tub Barrier Requirements

1. Alarms shall comply with the following:
 - a. Alarms shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2017
 - b. Deactivation switch located 54" or more above the threshold of the door
 - c. Sound continuously for 30 seconds within 7 seconds of the door opening
 - d. Have a sound pressure level of 85 dba or higher
 - e. Have a manual deactivation switch to deactivate the alarm for a single opening not to exceed 15 seconds
2. Pools, spas, and hot tubs equipped with approved pool safety covers meeting the performance standards of ASTM-F1346-91 need not comply with the pool alarm/door requirements.
3. Although most fencing configurations have been shown, it is impossible to anticipate the infinite variety and combinations of materials that may be used. Where climbing or "step" conditions may be encountered, please check with the Building and Safety Division.
4. The following doors and gates are prohibited as part of the pool enclosure due to intrinsic problems with self-closing or self-latching devices.
 - a. Double doors or pairs of gates
 - b. Doors or gates wider than 4 feet
 - c. Driveway gates
 - d. Overhead garage doors
5. The top of the barrier shall be at least 60 inches above the grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. (See Page 3)
6. All required fencing shall be constructed so as to limit the climb-ability of the fencing. 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. The fence must be free of gaps or voids which allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than 4 inches in diameter.
7. Above Ground Pools: Fencing requirements are the same for above-ground pools as are required for other pools, unless the side walls of the pool form a complying barrier equivalent in height (5 feet high) and meet all the minimum requirements of a barrier fence as described in the items noted above. 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:
 - a. The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access;
or
 - b. The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier that meets the requirements of the aforementioned items.

When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall be protected by a barrier complying with the requirements of the aforementioned items.

This handout is for residential pools and spas. San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) is the local regulatory agency for all public swimming pools in San Bernardino County.