

Outdoor Swimming Pool, Hot Tub and Spa Requirements

The following is for informational purposes only and does not include all of the requirements defined in the International Residential Code.

Electrical:

- 1) All electrical outlets must be GFCI protected
- 2) An electrical outlet for sanitation equipment must be a minimum distance of 6 feet, and a maximum distance of 10 feet from the inside wall of the pool
- 3) Any auxiliary electrical outlet is permitted at a minimum distance of 10 feet, and a maximum of 20 feet from the inside wall of the pool
- 4) A service disconnect must be located within sight of the pool but not less than 5 feet from the inside wall
- 5) Overhead power lines must be a minimum of 10 feet above the pool
- 6) Underground wiring must not be less than 5 feet from the inside wall of the pool unless protected in rigid conduit
- 7) All metal parts of electrical equipment within 5 feet from inside wall of pool must be grounded with a No. 8 or larger solid copper bonding conductor
- 8) Minimum burial depth of underground wiring shall be:
 - a) 6" for Rigid Metal Conduit
 - b) 6" for Intermediate Metal Conduit
 - c) 18" for Nonmetallic raceways designed for burial without concrete
 - d) 18" for other approved raceways

Barriers:

- 9) A Barrier as described below, is required for any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches deep. This includes in-ground, above ground and all on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas.
- 10) Barriers around the pool are required with a minimum height of 48 inch measured from finish grade
- 11) Maximum distance between top of Grade and Bottom of barrier is 2 inches unless the barrier is mounted on the top rail of an above ground pool which then requires a maximum spacing of 4 inches

- 12) Decorative barriers with horizontal and vertical members, or lattice require 1 ¾ “ maximum spacing
- 13) Maximum spacing for mesh size chain link fences is 2 ¼”
- 14) Gates must open outward from the pool and shall be self closing with a self latching device
- 15) Release mechanism of the latching device must be a minimum of 3 inches below the top of the gate and located on the pool side of the barrier
- 16) Maximum openings within 18 inches of the release mechanism must be less than ½ inches
- 17) Where a dwelling unit serves as part of the pool barrier, all doors with direct access to the pool will require an alarm which provides an audible warning (85 dBA @ 10 feet), when the door(s) is open and will be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching mechanism located a minimum of 54” from the floor.
- 18) 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:
 - i) The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access;Or
 - ii) The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of Section AG105.2, Items 1 through 9 (of the IRC). When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.
- 19) All swimming pools and equipment shall be equipped to be emptied completely of water so that the discharged water shall be disposed of in a manner that is approved in writing by the Code Official that will not create a nuisance to adjoining property, either by running across that property's surface regularly, or by causing erosion on that property, or by causing water to stand on that property for twenty-four (24) hours or more.