

Installing a Pool, Hot Tub or Spa - Residential Standards in Construction

Pursuant to [SVMC 19.65.180](#)

The purpose of this handout is to provide an overview what information will be necessary to install a pool, hot tub or spa on your property and answer some common questions related to the installation of a pool, hot tub or spa within the City of Spokane Valley.

Is a permit required?

- A permit IS required for the installation of ANY swimming pool, hot tub, or spa as described in this document in order to ensure the appropriate pool barrier is installed for safety.

What is considered a swimming pool?

- A swimming pool, in-ground, above ground, or on-ground, is considered any structure intended for swimming or wading that contains water more than 24" (2 feet) deep.



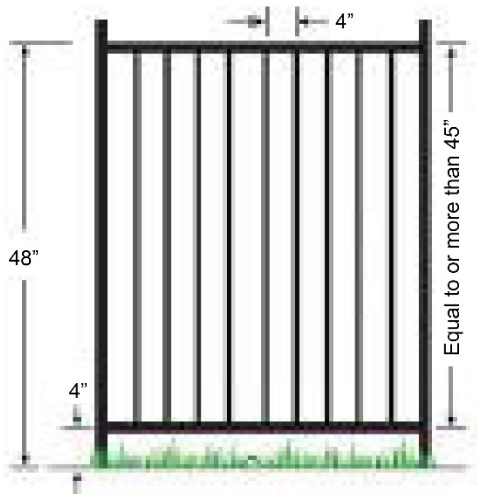
Pool Barriers

- A pool barrier may be a fence, wall, structure wall, or any combination of those items. The barrier MUST completely surround the swimming pool and obstruct access to the swimming pool, for life/health safety.
- A barrier shall be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers.

Fences

- The top of any barrier constructed MUST be, at a minimum, 48" (4 feet) above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away of the swimming pool.
- The maximum vertical clearance between finished ground level and the barrier shall be 2" measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool.
- Where the top of the pool structure is above finished ground level, such as an above ground pool, the barrier shall be at finished ground level, such as the pool structure, or shall be mounted on top of the pool structure.
- Where the barrier is mounted on the pool structure, the opening between the top surface of the pool frame and the bottom of the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4" diameter sphere.

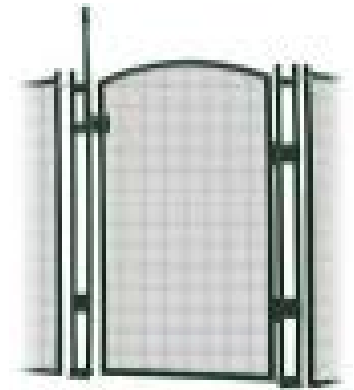




- Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45", the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence.
- Spacing between vertical and diagonal members shall not exceed 1 3/4" in width. Max mesh size for chain link shall be a 2 1/4" square.
- Solid barriers shall not contain indentations or protrusions, except for normal construction tolerances.

Gates

- Gates MUST be self-latching and swing OUTWARD; away from the pool area.
- Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is less than 54" from the bottom of the gate:
 - The release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3" below the top of the gate; and
 - The gate and barrier shall not have an opening greater than 1/2" within 18" of the release mechanism.



Structure Wall

- Where a wall of a dwelling unit serves as part of part of the barrier and contains a door that provides direct access to the pool, one of the following shall apply:
 - The pool is equipped with a powered safety cover (ASTM F1346)
 - Doors with direct access shall have an alarm (UL 2017)

Above Ground Structures

- 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 fixed or removable ladder or steps, the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of this brochure. A removable ladder shall not constitute an acceptable alternative to enclosure requirements.

Links and References

- [US Consumer Product Safety Commission](#)
- [PoolSafely.Gov](#)
- [Washington State Department of Health](#)
- Washington Administrative Code: [WAC 246-260-131](#)
- 2015 International Residential Code (IRC): [Chapter 305: Barrier Requirements](#)
- 2015 International Residential Code (IRC): [Chapter 42: Swimming Pools](#)
- Spokane Valley Municipal Code (SVMC): [Chapter 19.65.180](#)
- [Pool and Hot Tub Alliance](#)
- [Safe Kids Worldwide](#)

Documentation required to submit for review:

- Completed [residential application](#). Permits may be filed via the [online permit portal](#) or [forms are available for printing/download](#).
- A [site plan](#) showing the location of the pool and fence with distance to the property lines from the edge of the pool.
- Plans/Design
 - In-ground MUST be engineered
 - Above ground pool - provide manufacturers specifications
- Barrier details: Show fencing, gates, structure walls, etc.