



CODE ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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RESIDENTIAL ABOVE GROUND POOL

What is Required? **ANY above ground Pool capable of holding greater than 24” of water.**

- 1) A property survey demonstrating the proper set-backs and buffers to any public easements or right of ways. The survey will be reviewed by the local Zoning Officer to determine the legal land use and proper placement for the pool.
- 2) A Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code residential building permit needs to be filled out by the applicant and returned completed to the local jurisdiction.

A) Describe the type of pool that you are interested in placing in the yard. This information should include height and diameter of the pool from grade on all sides. *(The more information and details, the better the review)*

B) The pool will require a “BARRIER” device to be placed around the pool to help prevent any unauthorized person from entering the pool.

305.2.9 Clear zone. There shall be a clear zone of not less than **36** inches (914 mm) between the exterior of the barrier and any permanent structures or equipment such as pumps, filters and heaters that can be used to climb the barrier.

305.2.10 Poolside barrier setbacks. The pool or spa side of the required barrier shall be not less than **20** inches (508 mm) from the water’s edge.

305.3 Gates. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Sections 305.3.1 through 305.3.3 and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool or spa, shall be self-closing and shall have a self-latching device.

305.5 On ground residential pool structure as a barrier.

An on ground *residential* pool wall structure or a barrier mounted on top of an on ground *residential* pool wall structure shall serve as a barrier where all of the following conditions are present:

1. Where only the pool wall serves as the barrier, the bottom of the wall is on grade, the top of the wall is not less than **48** inches (1219 mm) above grade for the entire perimeter of the pool, the wall complies with the requirements of Section 305.2 and the pool manufacturer

Best practice is to submit a narrative or design of the barrier of choice. Providing *more* information on how to secure the pool is always helpful for the reviewer to understand the project and provide code guidance on getting the permit. Should you be using a fence, please describe in detail the placement and fence type or style for review.

Also, remember any bladder holding 10,000(+) gallons of water must have a reasonable place to run off in any emergency and cannot flood nearby residence.

- C) **Electrical Outlet to the Pump or equipment.** The pool will most likely require an exterior rated outlet to supply electricity to the pump and other equipment. The electrical code under the IRC explains:

E4203.1.1 Location. Receptacles that provide power for water-pump motors or other loads directly related to the circulation and sanitation system shall be permitted to be located between 6 feet and 10 feet (1829 mm and 3048 mm) from the inside walls of pools and outdoor spas and hot tubs, where the receptacle is single and of the grounding type and protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters.

E4203.1.3 GFCI protection. All 15- and 20-ampere, single phase, 125-volt receptacles located within 20 feet (6096 mm) of the inside walls of pools and outdoor spas and hot tubs shall be protected by a ground-fault circuit interrupter. Outlets supplying pool pump motors supplied from branch circuits rated at 120 volts through 240 volts, single phase, whether by receptacle or direct connection, shall be provided with ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel. [680.21(C) and 680.22(A)(4)]. (please consult an electrician for details)

What about a DECK?

Some Pool owners want to install or construct a deck onto the pool for enjoyment. Here are a few helpful hints when considering a new pool deck:

All Residential Decks should be reviewed by the local **Building Code Official** or designated Plan Examiner for minimum code compliance and safety. The best common practice is to describe the deck construction and method in a simple narrative:

305.3 Gates. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Sections 305.3.1 through 305.3.3 and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool or spa, shall be self-closing and shall have a self-latching device.

306.1 General. Decks shall be designed and installed in accordance with the *International Residential Code* or the *International Building Code*, as applicable in accordance with Section 102.7.1, except as provided in this section.

306.2 Slip resistant. Decks, ramps, coping, and similar step surfaces shall be slip resistant and cleanable. Special features in or on decks such as markers, brand insignias, and similar materials shall be slip resistant.

306.8 Deck edges. The edges of decks shall be radiused, tapered, or otherwise designed to eliminate sharp corners.

General NOTES:

There are dozens if not hundreds of different above ground pool sizes, shapes and varieties. Always consult with a qualified professional installer and electrician when performing new tasks to reduce lag time in permitting.

The following is a general guideline to help answer the most common questions asked on above ground pool installations. You may refer to the Residential Codes for further reference at: www.codes.iccsafe.org for more code interpretations.

The local Building Code Official (BCO) has the final approval on all interpretations, applications and permits issued.