SWIMMING POOL GUIDELINES

All information in this handout pertains to residential pools and is offered as a representative of typical issues/questions that may arise on a typical job. It does not represent the full code text. The Town of Winchester assumes no responsibility for any errors, omissions, and the installer is required to follow all applicable state and local codes. For additional information, please refer to the 2015 IRC and Connecticut State Building Code and all state regulations.

When is a permit required?

Any pool or spa that is 24 inches deep (measured by height of walls) **or** having a surface area of more than 250 square feet are required to have an approved permit and follow all safety measures.

Hot tubs and spas, even though they are often less than 250 square feet, always have a permanent recirculation system and therefore require a code complaint such as a lockable safety cover which complies with ASTM F1346-91.

Inflatable pools which contain water over 24 inches deep require a pool barrier which is typically a fence enclosure. The inflatable walls are not a code compliant pool barrier.

Permit Application

1. Building plans for pool including:
- Proposed side and materials;
- Proposed enclosures for safety and equipment including fence, gate, ladder, and alarm information; and
- Pool suction outlet specifications.

2. Plot plan showing pool to scale including any decking, fence enclosures, and pool equipment.

3. Building Permit Application, signed by owner or licensed contractor, and fee pad ($15 per $1,000 of project cost or any part of with a minimum permit fee of $30).

4. Electrical Permit Application, signed by owner (single family residence only) or licensed electrician, and fee paid ($15 per $1,000 of project cost or any part of with a minimum permit fee of $30).

5. Zoning Permit Application reflecting proposed location meeting required setbacks. A fee of $100 payable to Town of Winchester should also be included.

6. Septic approval from Torrington Area Health District (tahd.org) (860) 489-0436

7. A sign-off from the Wetlands Agent is also required. If proposed location of pool is within review area of a wetlands, watercourse, lake, or pond, approval may also be necessary from the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission.

Inspections Required:

1. Trench and bonding – electrical trench depth verifications and bonding of the pool and metal appurtenances including metal reinforcing for gunite pools.
2. Final electrical – location of equipment and GFCI protection.
3. Final/Certificate of Occupancy – access protection must be complete before pool can be filled or used.

Summary of Requirements:

1. An enclosure that is at least 4 ft high is required to completely surround all swimming pools, including a temporary fence for in-ground pools prior to filling. The sides of an above-ground pool can be considered part of the barrier if they are at least 48" high.

2. The enclosure must have a self-closing, self-latching gate that wings outward, away from the pool. (See examples of compliant above-ground ladder systems).

    a. Any doors from the home that provide direct access to the pool shall either have an alarm, a self-closing, self-latching device 54 inches above the floor, or there should be a safety cover over the pool.

3. No accessory electrical outlets are allowed to be less than 6 ft to the pool.

4. The correct size wiring shall be supplied to the pool equipment and is required to be in conduit. A separate 15 or 20 ampere branch circuit with a convenience GFCI receptacle shall be provided between 6 ft and 20 ft from the pool. The trench depth for these circuits shall be 12 inches minimum for the convenience outlet and 18 inches in conduit for the pump motor.

5. All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or grate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked to indicate compliance with ANSI/ASME A112.19.8 2007.

6. Pool water alarm that emits a sound of at least 50 decibels when an object weighing more than 15 pounds enters the water.

7. No pool should be filled with water to a depth above 24 inches until a Certificate of Use is issued.

8. Pools cannot be installed under electrical wires.

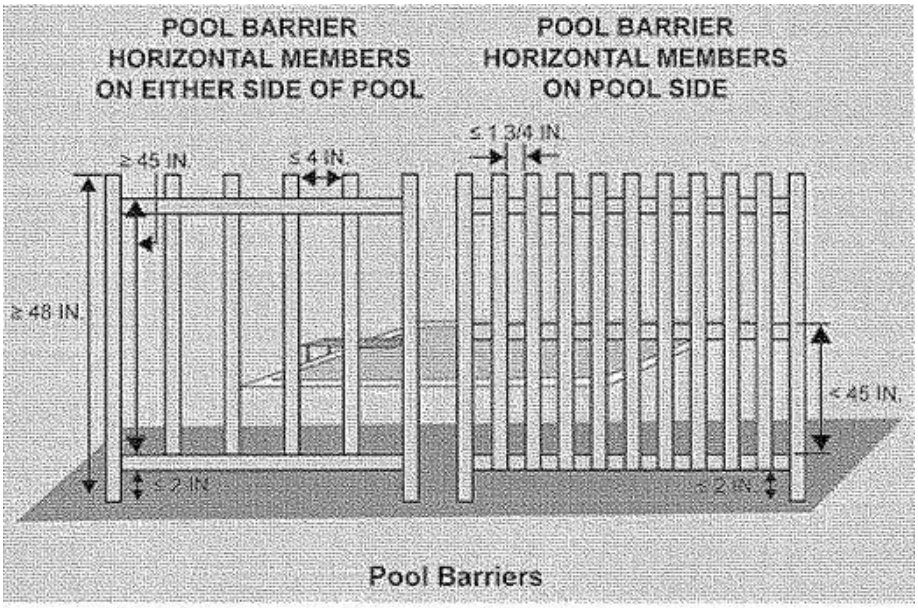
Pool Enclosures

A successful pool barrier prevents a child from getting OVER, UNDER, or THROUGH and keeps a child from gaining access to the pool except when supervising adults are present. Any openings should not allow for the passage for a 4-inch sphere.

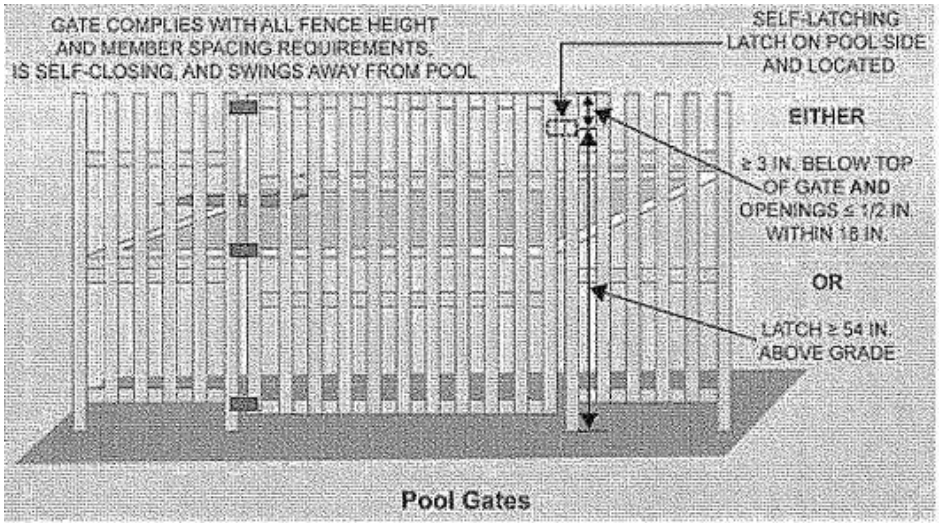
Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2¼ inch square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to no more than 1¾ inches.

Any solid barrier surfaces cannot contain indentations or protrusions that form handholds or footholds, except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.

The sidewall of an above-ground pool can be considered part of the barrier provided that the ladder to the pool is an approved enclosure (see examples below). A flip-up or removeable ladder does not constitute a (passive) self-closing device.



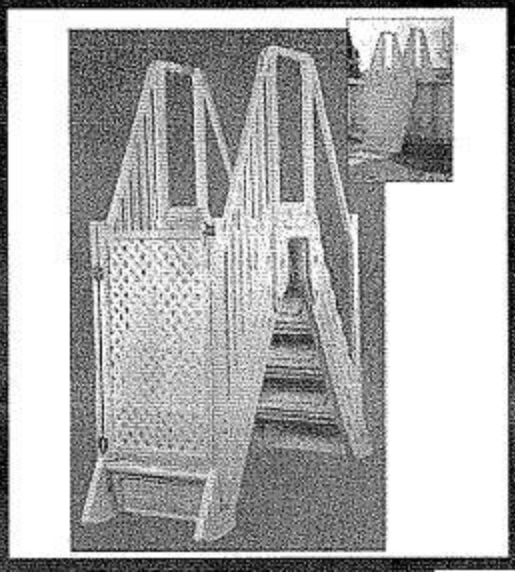
Pool Barriers



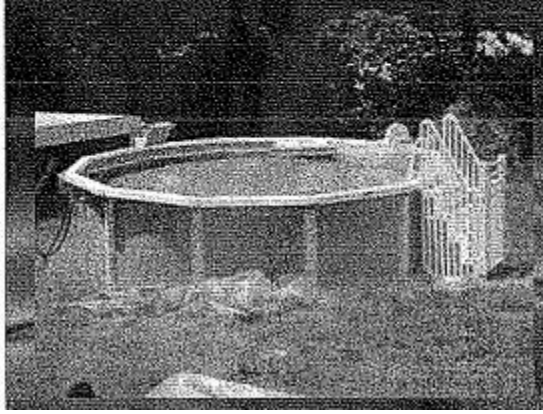
Pool Gates

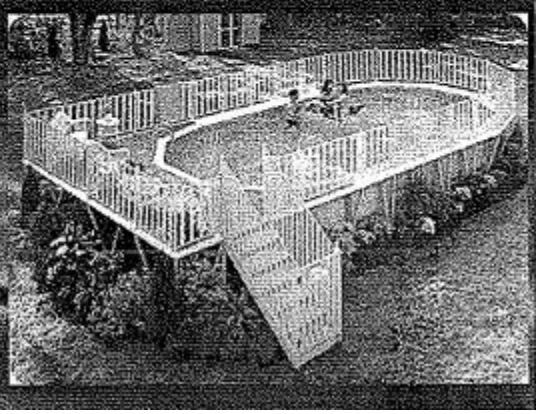
Barrier Requirements – AG 105.2

10. Above-ground structure is used as barrier or mounted on structure the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets 105.2, Items 1-9

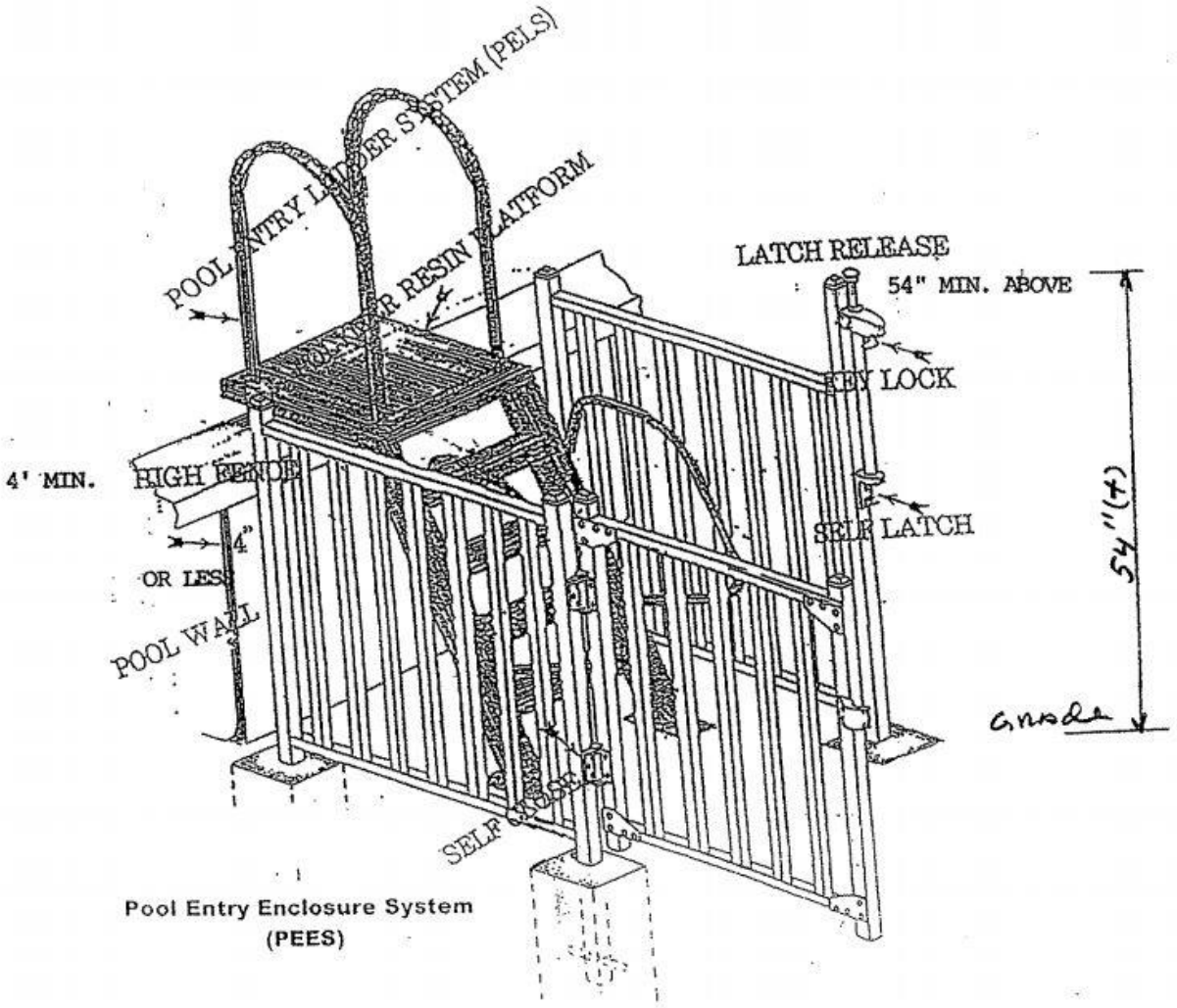


Barrier Requirements





EXAMPLE ENCLOSURE FOR ABOVE GROUND OUTDOOR PRIVATE SWIMMING POOL



Model Barrier Code Enclosure

Decks

Decks should be designed and installed according to the IRC and additionally:

1. Be slip resistant and cleanable.
2. The difference in the vertical elevation between the pool deck and adjoining sidewalk not greater than ¼ inch.
3. The open gap between the pool deck/walkway should not be greater than ¾ inch.
4. The edges should be radiused, tapered, or otherwise designed to eliminate sharp corners.

Wastewater Guidelines

Pool wastewater should never be discharged into storm drainage system, a pond, stream, or wetland. Prior to discharge, confirm with the Wetlands Agent in the Planning Department if part of your property is considered wetland based on soil type, (860) 738-6593.

The best thing to do is to discharge the pool wastewater onto the ground in a place, away from the wetlands, where it will soak in completely and not run off onto another property or into a wetlands or storm drain.

Wastewater should have a pH between 6.5 and 8.5 and residual chlorine or bromine levels of less than 1.0mg/l and filter backwash should be less than 3.0mg/l. Pool test kits can help with these measurements.

Call a licensed pool technician with further questions.