



BARRIERS FOR SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



The following information is based on the requirements for barriers set forth in the 2016 California Building Code and updated to meet legislation passed under Senate Bill No. 442 (Newman) effective January 1, 2018.

The following safety features are required whenever a building permit is issued for construction of a new swimming pool or spa, or any building permit is issued for remodeling of an existing pool or spa. It shall be equipped with at least two of the following seven drowning prevention features to protect the residence. **An approved barrier shall still be required for protection of the area beyond the property, e.g. neighborhood.**

Items 1-7: All installations are required to have at least two of these items

1. The pool shall be isolated from access to the home by an enclosure that meets all the requirements listed in item 8 of this form.
2. The pool shall incorporate removable mesh fencing that meets American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Specifications F2286 standards in conjunction with a gate that is self-closing and self-latching and can accommodate a key lockable device.
3. The pool shall be equipped with an approved safety pool cover that meets all requirements of the ASTM Specification F 1346.
4. The residence shall be equipped with exit alarms on those doors providing direct access to the pool. The exit alarm may cause either an alarm noise or a verbal warning, such as a repeating notification that “the door to the pool is open.”
5. All doors providing direct access from the home to the swimming pool shall be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor.
6. Swimming pool or spa alarm that, when placed in pool or spa, will sound upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. The alarm shall meet and be independently certified to the ASTM Standard F 2208 “Standards Specification for Pool Alarms” which includes surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser and infrared type alarms. For the purposes of this article, “swimming pool alarms” shall not include swimming protection alarm devices designed for individual use, such as an alarm attached to a child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water.
7. Other means of protection, if the degree of protection afforded is equal to or greater than that afforded by any of the devices set forth in items 1-4, and have been independently verified by an approved testing laboratory as meeting standards for those devices established by the ASTM or the American Society of Testing Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

Item 8 Below: Required for All installations

Exceptions:

- **Hot Tubs or spas with locking safety covers that comply with American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) F1346 Standards.**

- **Pools equipped with an “approved safety pool cover” that is a manually or power-operated safety pool cover that meets all of the performance standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard F1346-91.**

8. An enclosure meeting all the following:

- a) Any access gates through the enclosure shall open away from the swimming pool, spa or hot tub, and shall be self-closing with a self-latching device placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground.
- b) Shall be a minimum height of 60 inches.
- c) Shall be constructed with a maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of 2 inches.
- d) Shall be constructed so that gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than 4 inches in diameter.
- e) Shall be constructed in such a manner to create an outside surface free of protrusions, cavities or other physical characteristics that would serve as handholds or footholds that could enable a child below the age of five years to climb over.