

Swimming Pool, Spas and Hot Tubs Enclosure and Safety Features For Single-Family Residence

New and remodeled swimming pools or spas shall have an enclosure and two safety features.

Enclosure

An enclosure, meaning a fence, wall or other barrier that isolates a swimming pool from access to the single-family residence, shall have all the following characteristics:

- (a) Any access gates through the enclosure open away from the swimming pool and are self-closing with a self-latching device placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground.
- (b) A minimum height of 60 inches.
- (c) A maximum vertical clearance from the “ground” to the bottom of the enclosure of two inches.
- (d) Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than four inches in diameter. The maximum opening formed by a chain link fence (minimum 11 gauge) shall be not more than 1¾ inches (44 mm). Where the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top and bottom that reduce the openings, such openings shall be not greater than 1¾ inches (44 mm). Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members, and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches, such as deer fencing or decorative gates, the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1¾ inches in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1¾ inches in width.
- (e) 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.
- (f) Double doors and gates or multiple doors and gates shall have not fewer than one leaf secured in place and the adjacent leaf shall be secured with a self-latching device. Any gates other than pedestrian access gates, such as vehicle access gates, shall be equipped with lockable hardware or padlocks and remain locked at all times when not in use.

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Safety Features

A new swimming pool or spa or the remodeling of an existing swimming pool or spa at a private single-family residence shall be equipped with at least two of the following seven drowning prevention safety features:

(1) An enclosure (as defined) that isolates the swimming pool or spa from the private single-family residence.

(2) 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) An approved safety pool cover, as defined: "Approved safety pool cover" means a manually or power-operated safety pool cover that meets all the performance standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), in compliance with standard F1346-91.

(4) Exit alarms on the private single-family residences' doors that provide direct access to the swimming pool or spa. "Exit alarms" means devices that make audible, continuous alarm sounds when any door or window, that permits access from the residence to the pool area that is without any intervening enclosure, is opened or is left ajar. Exit alarms may be battery operated or may be connected to the electrical wiring of the building. 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." Alarms shall be listed in compliance with UL 2017.

(5) A self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor on the private single-family residence's doors providing direct access to the swimming pool or spa.

(6) An alarm that, when placed in a swimming 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 F2208 "Standard Safety Specification for Residential Pool Alarms," which includes surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser and infrared type alarms.

A swimming protection alarm feature designed for individual use, including an alarm attached to a child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water, is not a qualifying drowning prevention safety feature.

(7) Other means of protection, if the degree of protection afforded is equal to or greater than that afforded by any of the features set forth above and has been independently verified by an approved testing laboratory as meeting standards for those features established by the ASTM or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

- The requirements of this article do not apply to hot tubs or spas with locking safety covers that comply with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTMF1346)

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