

Date: January 1, 2011

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**Swimming Pool Barrier Requirements  
effective February 3, 2011**

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**SWIMMING POOL** means any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 18 inches deep. Swimming pool includes in-ground and above-ground structures and includes, but is not limited to, hot tubs, spas, portable spas and nonportable wading pools.

**AG105.1 Application.** The provisions of this chapter shall control the design of barriers for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. These design controls are intended to provide protection against potential drowning by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

**AG105.2 Outdoor swimming pool.** 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 at a private, single-family home, it shall be surrounded by a barrier which shall comply with the following:

1. The pool shall be isolated from access to a home by an enclosure that meets the requirements of AG105.5.1.
2. Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, shall not contain indentations or 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.
3. 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, the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches in width.
4. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches in width.
5. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a  $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch square unless the fence has slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to not more than  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

6. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall not be more than  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches.
7. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Section AG105.2, Items 1 through 6, and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 60 inches from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism and openings shall comply with the following:
  - 7.1. The release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate; and
  - 7.2. The gate and barrier shall have no opening larger than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.
8. Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following conditions shall be met:
  - 8.1. The pool shall be equipped with an approved powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F 1346; or
  - 8.2. Doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2017. The deactivation switch(es) shall be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door; or
  - 8.3. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the governing body, shall be acceptable as long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Item 8.1 or 8.2 described above.
9. 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 ladder or steps:
  - 9.1. The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access; or
  - 9.2. The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of Section AG105.2, Items 1 through 8. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch-diameter sphere.

Prior to the issuance of any final approval for the completion of permitted construction or remodeling work, the Building and Safety Official shall inspect and verify the drowning safety prevention devices required have been installed and functional properly.

**AG105.3 Indoor swimming pool.** Walls surrounding an indoor swimming pool shall comply with Section AG105.2, Item 8.

**AG105.4 Prohibited locations.** Barriers shall be located to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb them.

## **AG105.5 Barriers.**

**AG105.5.1 Enclosure; required characteristics.** An enclosure shall have all of the following characteristics:

1. 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.
2. A minimum height of 60 inches.
3. A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of 2 inches.
4. Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than 4 inches in diameter.
5. 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.

**AG105.5.2 Barrier exceptions.** Spas or hot tubs with locking safety covers that comply with the American Society for Testing Materials Emergency Performance Specification (ASTM ES 13-89) or ASTM F 1346, as listed in Section AG107, shall be exempt from the provisions of this appendix.

**AG105.6 Barrier prerequisite to filling of pool.** An inspection to verify pool barriers are installed, functional and in compliance with the approved plans shall occur and be approved by the Building and Safety Official before water may be introduced into any pool or spa.

**AG105.7 Existing pool and spa barriers.** Any new or replacement pool barrier shall be constructed and maintained per the current barrier requirements in the section AG105.5.1. Any existing swimming pool, spa, swimming pool/spa enclosure repair may maintain the original barrier and latch height requirements lawfully in place at the time of the original permitted construction.

Every person in possession of land within the City of Pleasanton, either as owner, purchaser under contract, lessee, tenant or licensee, upon which is situated a private swimming pool or spa, shall at all times maintain on the lot or premises upon which such pool is located and completely surround such pool, lot or premises a fence or other solid structure or barrier. All gates or doors opening through such enclosure shall be kept securely closed at all such times when not in actual use and shall be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device designed to keep and capable of keeping such door or gate securely closed at all times when not in actual use.