



POOL BARRIER/FENCING REQUIREMENTS

Intent

The intent of the swimming pool barrier requirement is to prevent the uncontrolled access to a pool or spa by children from adjacent properties and from the home.

DEFINITIONS:

Swimming pool or pool means any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 18" deep.

Swimming pool includes in-ground and aboveground structures and includes, but is not limited to, hot tubs, spas, portable spas, and non-portable wading pools.

Enclosure means a fence, wall, or other barrier that isolates a swimming pool from access to the home or from adjacent properties.

Approved safety pool cover means a manual 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.

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.

Contractor's Responsibility

Any person entering into an agreement to build a swimming pool shall give the consumer notice of the requirements of the swimming pool barrier and file a building permit application with the City of Crete.

Required Safety Features:

Both Part A and Part B below must be complied with.

Part A) Requirement:

The swimming pool must be surrounded by a fence or wall at least six feet high. Chain link fencing or vertical slat fencing with a maximum slat spacing of 2 ¼" inches or masonry meet this requirement. Other enclosures that will prevent access to the pool can be approved provided that no opening other than openings for doors or gates or allow a sphere four inches in diameter to pass through it may be approved.

Part B) Requirement:

The pool shall be isolated from access to a home by one of the following methods prior to filling with water:

1. The pool shall be isolated from access **to the home** by any enclosure that meets the following requirements:
 - 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" above the ground.
 - A minimum height of 60".
 - Maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of 2" or a distance equal to or less than 4" if installed over a solid surface such as concrete.
 - Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than 4" in diameter.
 - 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.
2. The pool shall incorporate removable mesh pool fencing that meets ASTM F 2286 in conjunction with a gate that is self-closing and self-latching and can accommodate a key lockable device. (To be used to comply with Part A of this handout, this must be PERMANENT)
3. The pool shall be equipped with an approved safety pool cover meeting ASTM F 1346.
4. The residence shall be equipped with exit alarms on those doors providing direct access to the pool.
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" above the floor.
6. Swimming pool alarm, when placed in pools, will sound upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water and certified to ASTM F 2208.

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 (1) to (6) above, as determined by the Building Official.

Barrier features 2 (unless permanently installed), 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Part B are permitted as a substitution for the fence between the home and pool but cannot be used as a substitution for the fence required in Part A that isolates the pool from adjoining parcels or buildings.

General pool items:

All outlets shall be GFCI type. All rebar and pool mechanical equipment shall be properly grounded. All pool equipment shall be adequately protected from the weather and be accessible.