TOWN OF ROCKLAND
Building Department
242 UNION STREET
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS 02370

TELEPHONE 781-871-0596 FAX 781-616-6824

NOTICE TO ALL PRIVATE SWIMMING POOL OWNERS AS DIRECTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

1. Building and Wiring Permits are required for all pool installations.
2. Fence requirements for pools are as follows:
   (a) Above-ground pool with a water design depth greater than 24 inches shall be fenced with 4' fence. (This includes on-ground inflatable pools with circulating water systems or not)
   (b) Above-ground pool 4' deep or more shall have a ladder enclosed with the pool entry ladder system.
   (c) In-ground pools shall be fenced with 4' fence to code.
3. Power supply + all wiring to comply w/current National + + Mass. Electrical Codes NFPA 70.

Note: All Swimming Pools are subject to State Building Code requirements of 780CMR, 6th Edition Chapter4, Section 421-A BBRS Staff View.

Any questions please call the Town of Rockland Building Dept. at 781-871-0596 ext #3.

TOWN OF ROCKLAND
Building Department
242 UNION STREET
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS 02370

TELEPHONE 781-871-0596 FAX 781-616-6824

REQUIREMENTS FOR POOL INSTALLATION

ANY PROPERTY OWNER OR POOL COMPANY INSTALLING A SWIMMING POOL SHALL OBTAIN THE FOLLOWING PERMITS AND APPROVALS, AND SHALL SUPPLY THE DATA REQUESTED ACCORDING TO THE MASS. STATE BUILDING CODE, THE ZONING BYLAWS, AND THE ROCKLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION*.

(1)* State law requires that any property owner planning to install either an above-ground or in-ground pool, must go before the Conservation Commission if they are within 100 feet of wetland. Forms for "Determination of Applicability" from the Conservation Commission are available from the Building Dept. **All In-Ground Pools are subject to Conservation approval**.

(2) When applying for a Building Permit, a plot plan must be submitted outling the following information: All pools have to be 5 feet from any lot line and all existing buildings: 25 feet from the front property line.

(3) Fence requirements for pools are as follows:

(a) A-G + ON GROUND INFLATABLE w/a **water design depth** greater than 24 inches: **SHALL BE FENCED WITH 4' FENCE.**

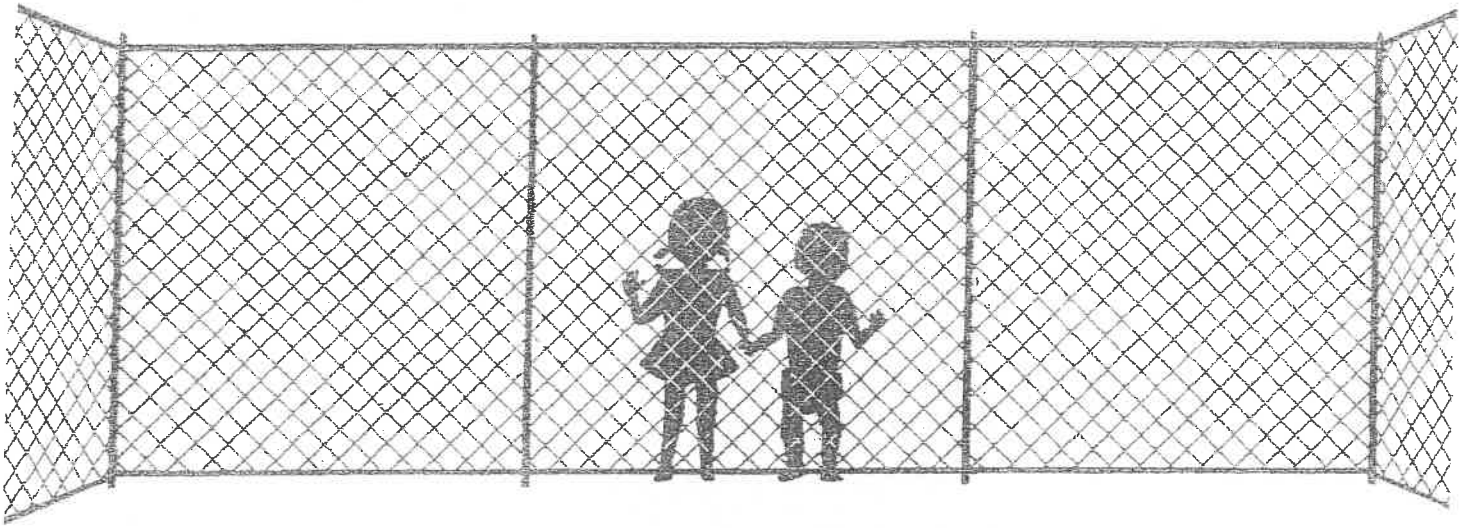
(b) Above-ground pool 4' deep or more: **SHALL HAVE A LADDER THAT LOCKS UP OR THAT IS REMOVABLE ENCLOSED WITH THE POOL ENTRY LADDER SYSTEM. (AS REQUIRED BY MASS. STATE BLD. CODE.)**

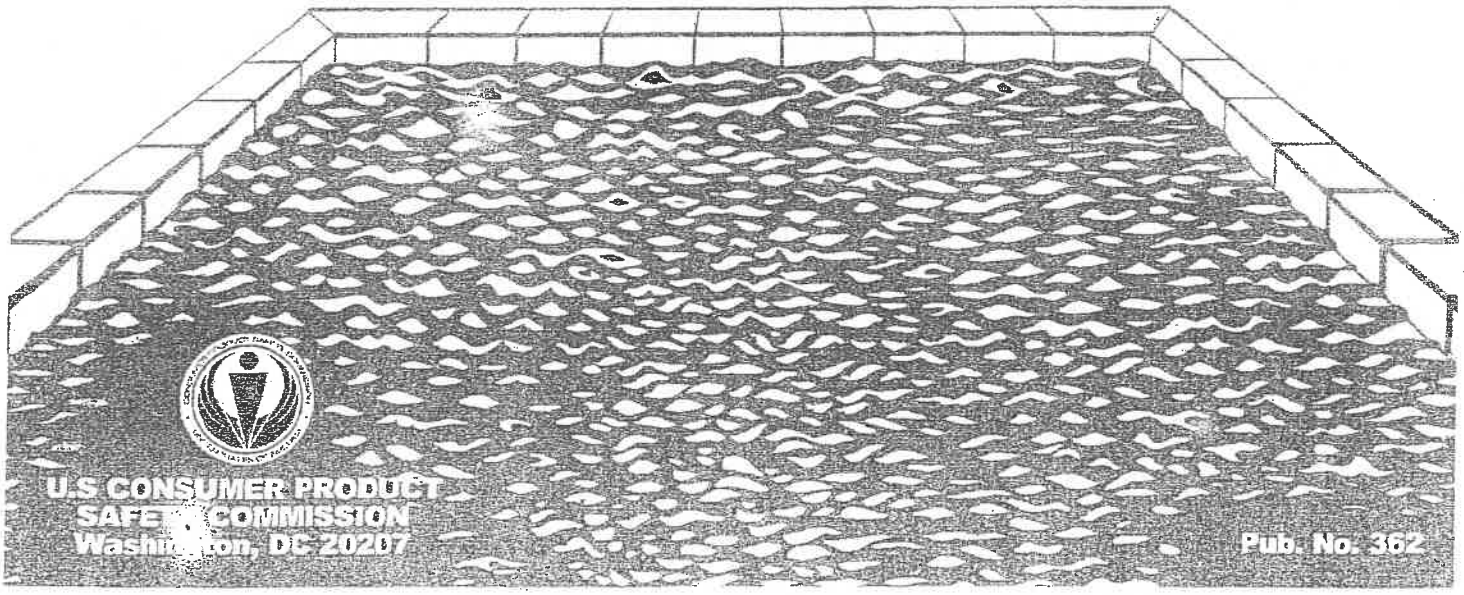
(c) In-ground pool: SHALL BE FENCED WITH 4'FENCE.-**FENCE PERMIT MUST BE FILED AT SAME TIME AS BUILDING PERMIT. STRUCTURAL DRAWING REQUIRED**

(4) **WIRING PERMITS ARE REQUIRED** for installing filter systems and for grounding. Applications are to be submitted to the Wiring Inspector when the Building Permit is applied for. **NOTE:See Wiring Inspector regarding all Pools (new code regulations)**

(5) **FEES:** Building; $25 for the first $1,000 of est. cost plus
$12 for each add'l $1000 or portion thereof
Wiring; $45 for Above-ground pool
$60 for In-ground pool

SAFETY BARRIER GUIDELINES FOR HOME POOLS





U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20207
Pub. No. 362

Swimming pools should always be happy places. Unfortunately, each year thousands of American families confront swimming pool tragedies—drownings and near-drownings of young children. These tragedies are preventable. This U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) handbook offers guidelines for pool barriers that can help prevent most submersion incidents involving young children.

This handbook is designed for use by owners, purchasers, and builders of residential pools, spas, and hot tubs.

The swimming pool barrier guidelines are not a CPSC standard and are not mandatory requirements. Therefore, the Commission does not endorse these guidelines as the sole method to minimize pool drownings of young children. The Commission believes, however, that the safety features recommended in this handbook will help make pools safer. Publication of this handbook is expected to promote pool safety awareness among owners, purchasers and builders of swimming pools.

Some localities have incorporated the guidelines in this handbook into their building codes. Check with your local authorities to see whether these guidelines are included in your area's building code or in other regulations.

Why the Swimming Pool Guidelines Were Developed

Each year, hundreds of young children die and thousands come close to death due to submersion in residential swimming pools. CPSC has estimated that each year about 300 children under 5 years old drown in swimming pools. The Commission estimates hospital emergency room treatment is required for more than 2,000 children under 5 years of age who were submerged in residential pools.

CPSC did an extensive study of swimming pool accidents, both fatal drownings and near-fatal submersions, in California, Arizona and Florida, states in which home swimming pools are very popular and in use during much of the year. The findings from that study led Commission staff to develop the guidelines in this handbook.

- In California, Arizona and Florida, drowning was the leading cause of accidental death in and around the home for children under the age of 5 years.

- 75 percent of the children involved in swimming pool submersion or drowning accidents were between 1 and 3 years old.

- Boys between 1 and 3 years old were the most likely victims of fatal drownings and near-fatal submersions in residential swimming pools.

- Most of the victims were being supervised by one or both parents when the swimming pool accident occurred.

- Nearly half of the child victims were last seen in the house before the pool accident occurred. In addition, 23 percent of the accident victims were last seen on the porch or patio, or in the yard.

- This means that fully 69 percent of the children who became victims in swimming pool accidents were not expected to be in or at the pool, but were found drowned or submerged in the water.

- 65 percent of the accidents occurred in a pool owned by the victim's immediate family, and 33 percent of the accidents occurred in pools owned by relatives or friends.

- Fewer than 2 percent of the pool accidents were a result of children trespassing on property where they didn't live or belong.

- 77 percent of the swimming pool accident victims had been missing for five minutes or less when they were found in the pool drowned or submerged.

The speed with which swimming pool drownings and submersions can occur is a special concern: by the time a child's absence is noted, the child may have drowned. Anyone who has cared for a toddler knows how fast young children can move. Toddlers are inquisitive and impulsive and lack a realistic sense of danger. These behaviors, coupled with a child's ability to move quickly and unpredictably make swimming pools particularly hazardous for households with young children.

Swimming pool drownings of young children have another particularly insidious feature: these are silent deaths. It is unlikely that splashing or screaming will occur to alert a parent or caregiver that a child is in trouble.

CPSC staff have reviewed a great deal of data on drownings and child behavior, as well as information on pool and pool barrier construction. The staff concluded that the best way to reduce child drownings in residential pools was for pool owners to construct and maintain barriers that would prevent young children from gaining access to pools. However, there are no substitutes for diligent supervision.

The Swimming Pool Barrier Guidelines

This section explains the CPSC swimming pool barrier guidelines with illustrated descriptions of pool barriers. Definitions of terms used in the guidelines are provided on page 6.

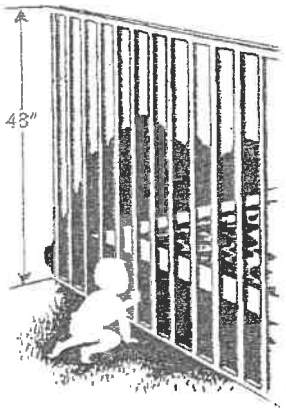
The definition of pool includes spas and hot tubs; the swimming pool barrier guidelines therefore apply to these structures as well as to conventional swimming pools.

A successful pool barrier prevents a child from getting OVER, UNDER, or THROUGH and keeps the child from gaining access to the pool except when supervising adults are present.

How to Prevent a Child from Getting OVER a Pool Barrier

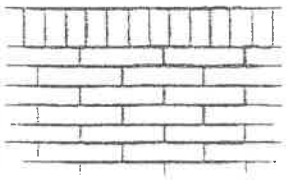
A young child can get over a pool barrier if the barrier is too low or if the barrier has handholds or footholds for a child to use when climbing.

The guidelines recommend that the top of a pool barrier be at least 48 inches above grade, measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool.

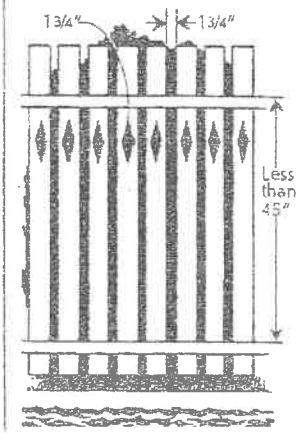


Guidelines recommend eliminating handholds and footholds and minimizing the size of openings in a barrier's construction.

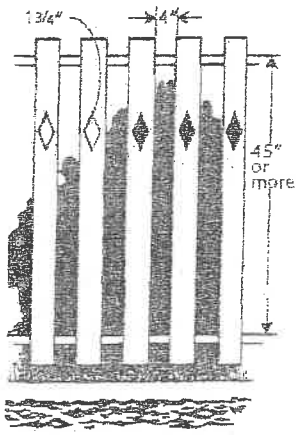
For a Solid Barrier:
No indentations or protrusions should be present, other than normal construction tolerances and masonry joints.



For a Barrier (Fence) Made Up of Horizontal and Vertical Members:
If the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches, the horizontal members should be on the swimming pool side of the fence. The spacing of the vertical members should not exceed 1-3/4 inches. This size is based on the foot width of a young child and is intended to reduce the potential for a child to gain a foothold. If there are any decorative cutouts in the fence, the space within the cutouts should not exceed 1-3/4 inches.

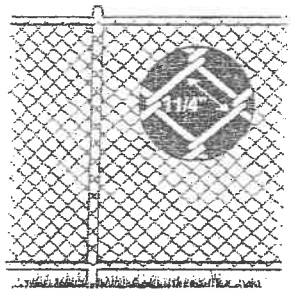


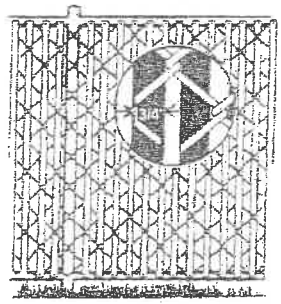
If the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is more than 45 inches, the horizontal members can be on the side of the fence facing away from the pool. The spacing between vertical members should not exceed 4 inches. This size is based on the head breadth and chest depth of a young child and is intended to prevent a child from passing through an opening. Again, if there are any decorative cutouts in the fence, the space within the cutouts should not exceed 1-3/4 inches.



For a Chain Link Fence:

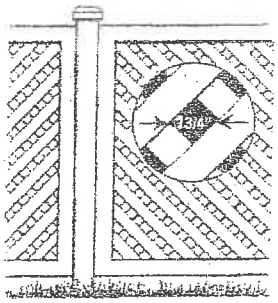
The mesh size should not exceed 1-1/4 inches square unless slats, fastened at the top or bottom of the fence, are used to reduce mesh openings to no more than 1-3/4 inches.



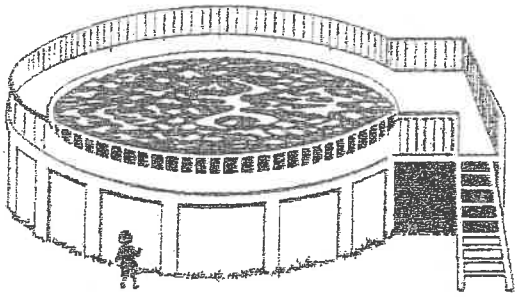


For a Fence Made Up of Diagonal Members (Latticework):

The maximum opening in the lattice should not exceed 1-3/4 inches.

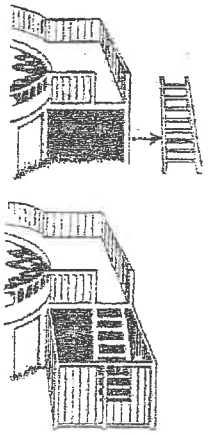


For Aboveground Pools:



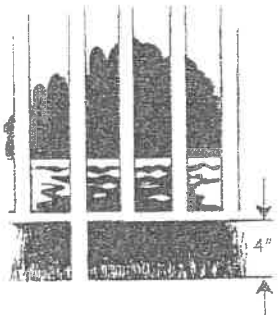
Aboveground pools should have barriers. The pool structure itself serves as a barrier or a barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure.

Then, there are two possible ways to prevent young children from climbing up into an aboveground pool. The steps or ladder can be designed to be secured, locked or removed to prevent access, or the steps or ladder can be surrounded by a barrier such as those described above.



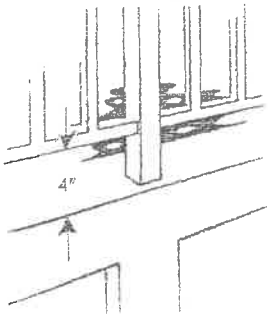
How to Prevent a Child from Getting UNDER a Pool Barrier

For any pool barrier, the maximum clearance at the bottom of the barrier should not exceed 4 inches above grade, when the measurement is done on the side of the barrier facing away from the pool.



Aboveground Pool with Barrier on Top of Pool:

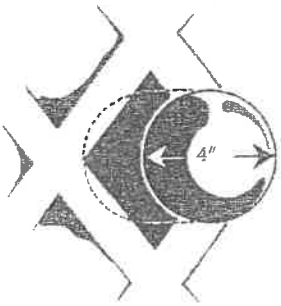
If an aboveground pool has a barrier on the top of the pool, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool and the bottom of the barrier should not exceed 4 inches.



How to Prevent a Child from Getting THROUGH a Pool Barrier

Preventing a child from getting through a pool barrier can be done by restricting the sizes of openings in a barrier and by using self-closing and self-latching gates.

To prevent a young child from getting through a fence or other barrier, all openings should be small enough so that a 4-inch diameter sphere cannot pass through. This size is based on the head breadth and chest depth of a young child.

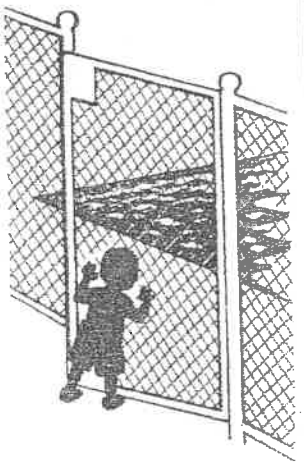


Gates:

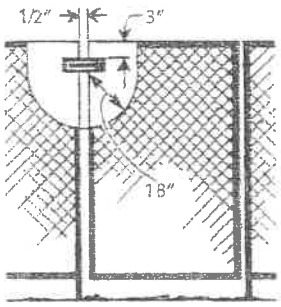
There are two kinds of gates which might be found on a residential property. Both can play a part in the design of a swimming pool barrier.

Pedestrian Gates:

These are the gates people walk through. Swimming pool barriers should be equipped with a gate or gates which restrict access to the pool. A locking device should be included in the gate design. Gates should open out from the pool and should be self-closing and self-latching. If a gate is properly designed, even if the gate is not completely latched, a young child pushing on the gate in order to enter the pool area will at least close the gate and may actually engage the latch.



When the release mechanism of the self-latching device is less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism for the gate should be at least 3 inches below the top of the gate on the side facing the pool. Placing the release mechanism at this height prevents a young child from reaching over the top of a gate and releasing the latch.



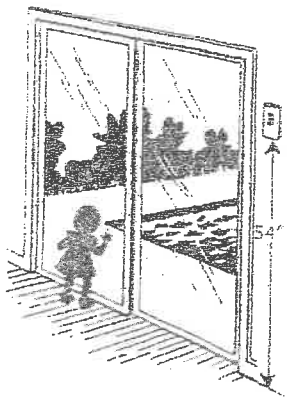
Also, the gate and barrier should have no opening greater than 1/2 inch within 18 inches of the latch release mechanism. This prevents a young child from reaching through the gate and releasing the latch.

All Other Gates (Vehicle Entrances, Etc.):

Other gates should be equipped with self-latching devices. The self-latching devices should be installed as described for pedestrian gates.

When the House Wall Forms Part of the Pool Barrier:

In many homes, doors open directly onto the pool area or onto a patio which leads to the pool.



In such cases, the wall of the house is an important part of the pool barrier, and passage through any doors in the house wall should be controlled by security measures. The importance of controlling a young child's movement from house to pool is demonstrated by the statistics obtained during CPSC's study of pool incidents in California, Arizona and Florida: almost half (46 percent) of the children who became victims of pool accidents were last seen in the house just before they were found in the pool.

All doors which give access to a swimming pool should be equipped with an audible alarm which sounds when the door and/or screen are opened. The alarm should sound for 30 seconds or more within 7 seconds after the door is opened. *Alarms should meet the requirements of UL 2017 General-Purpose Signaling Devices and Systems, Section 77.*

The alarm should be loud: at least 85 dBA (decibels) when measured 10 feet away from the alarm mechanism. The alarm sound should be distinct from other sounds in the house, such as the telephone, doorbell and smoke alarm. The alarm should have an automatic reset feature.

Because adults will want to pass through house doors in the pool barrier without setting off the alarm, the alarm should have a switch that allows adults to temporarily deactivate the alarm for up to 15 seconds. The deactivation switch could be a touchpad (keypad) or a manual switch, and should be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door covered by the alarm. This height was selected based on the reaching ability of young children.

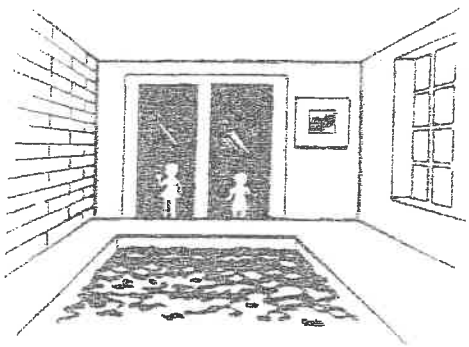
Power safety covers can be installed on pools to serve as security barriers. Power safety covers should conform to the specifications in ASTM F 1346-91. This standard specifies safety performance requirements for pool covers to protect young children from drowning.

If you wish further information on this standard, contact ASTM, Inc., Philadelphia, Pa. (formerly the American Society for Testing & Materials), directly.

Self-closing doors with self-latching devices could also be used to safeguard doors which give ready access to a swimming pool.

Indoor Pools:

When a pool is located completely within a house, the walls that surround the pool should be equipped to serve as pool safety barriers. Measures recommended above where a house wall serves as part of a safety barrier also apply for all the walls surrounding an indoor pool.



Barriers for Residential Swimming Pool, Spas, and Hot Tubs

The preceding explanations of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's pool barrier guidelines were provided in order to make it easier for pool owners, purchasers, builders, technicians and others to understand and apply the guidelines themselves. Detailed guidelines follow. Reading the following guidelines in conjunction with the diagrams previously provided may be especially helpful. For further information, consult your local building department or code authority.

Application

The guidelines presented in this document are intended to provide a means of protection against potential drownings and near-drownings to children under 5 years of age by restricting access to residential swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs.

Definitions

Aboveground/onground pool. See definition of swimming pool.

Barrier. A fence, a wall, a building wall or a combination thereof which completely surrounds the swimming pool and obstructs access to the swimming pool.

Hot tub. See definition of swimming pool.

Inground pool. See definition of swimming pool.

Residential. That which is situated on the premises of a detached one- or two-family dwelling or a one-family townhouse not more than three stories in height.

Spa, nonportable. See definition of swimming pool.

Spa, portable. A non-permanent structure intended for recreational bathing, in which all controls, water- heating, and water-circulating equipment are an integral part of the product and which is cord-connected (not permanently electrically wired).

Swimming pool. Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches deep. This includes inground, aboveground, and onground swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas.

Swimming pool, indoor. A swimming pool which is totally contained within a structure and surrounded on all four sides by walls of said structure.

Swimming pool, outdoor. Any swimming pool which is not an indoor pool.

Guidelines

Section I. Outdoor Swimming Pool

An outdoor swimming pool, including an inground, aboveground, or onground pool, hot tub, or spa, should be provided with a barrier which complies with the following:

1. The top of the barrier should be at least 48 inches above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier should be 4 inches measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an aboveground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure, or mounted on top of the pool structure. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier should be 4 inches.

2. Openings in the barrier should not allow passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.

3. Solid barriers, which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, should not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.

4. 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 should be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members should not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width. Where there are decorative cutouts, spacing within the cutouts should not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width.

5. 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 should not exceed 4 inches. Where there are decorative cutouts, spacing within the cutouts should not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width.

6. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences should not exceed [redacted] 1 1/4" square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to no more than 1-3/4 inches.

7. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members should be no more than 1-3/4 inches.

8. Access gates to the pool should comply with Section I, Paragraphs 1 through 7, and should be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates should open outward, away from the pool, and should be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates should have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, (a) the release mechanism should be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate and (b) the gate and barrier should have no opening greater than 1/2 inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.

9. Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following should apply:

(a) All doors with direct access to the pool through that wall should be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm should sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds within 7 seconds after the door is opened. *Alarms should meet the requirements of UL 2017 General-Purpose Signaling Devices and Systems, Section 77.* The alarm should have a minimum sound pressure rating of 85 dBA at 10 feet and the sound of the alarm should be distinctive from other household sounds, such as smoke alarms, telephones, and door bells. The alarm should automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm should be equipped with manual means, such as touchpads or switches, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening of the door from either direction. Such deactivation should last for no more than 15 seconds. The deactivation touchpads or switches should be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door.

(b) The pool should be equipped with a power safety cover which complies with ASTM F1346-91 listed below.

(c) Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, are acceptable so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by (a) or (b) described above.

10. Where an aboveground 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, then (a) the ladder to the pool or steps should be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access, or (b) the ladder or steps should be surrounded by a barrier which meets Section I, Paragraphs 1 through 9. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked, or removed, any opening created should not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.

Section II. Indoor Swimming Pool.

All walls surrounding an indoor swimming pool should comply with Section I, Paragraph 9.

Section III. Barrier Locations.

Barriers should be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers.

Exemptions

A portable spa with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F1346-91 listed below should be exempt from the guidelines presented in this document. But, swimming pools, hot tubs, and non-portable spas with safety covers should **not** be exempt from the provisions of this document.

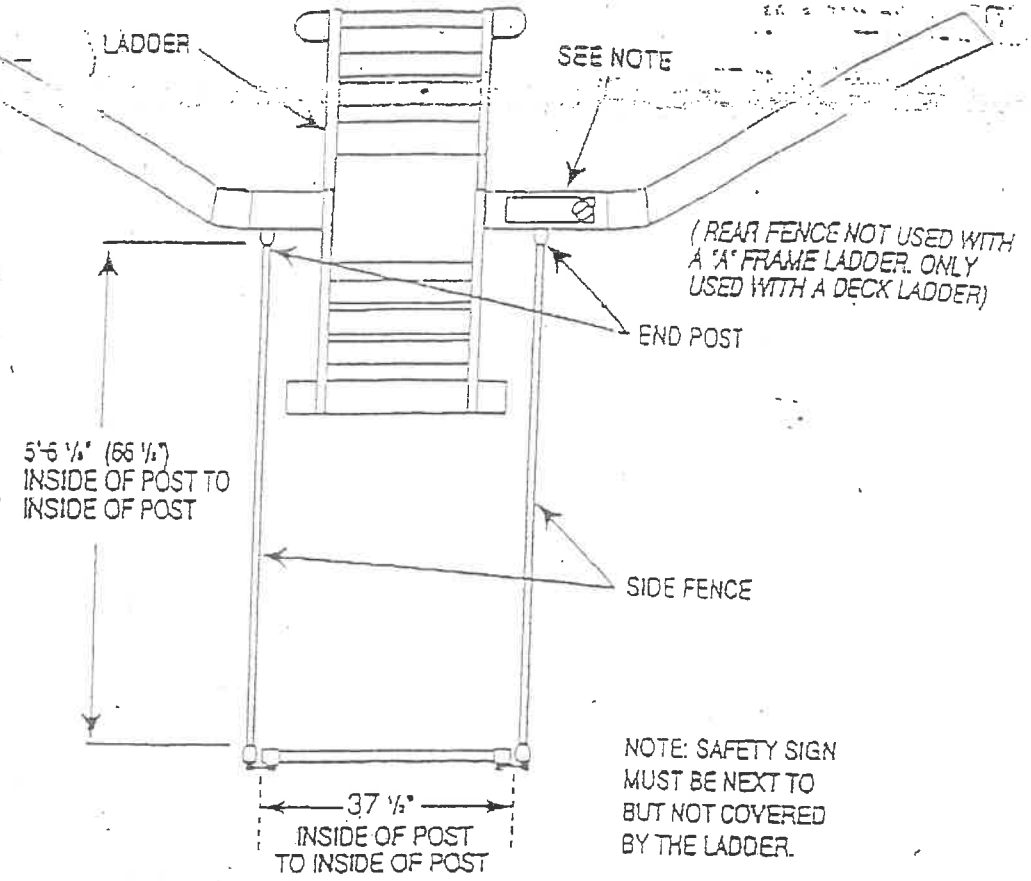
ASTM F1346-91, Standard Performance Specification for Safety Covers and Labeling Requirements for All Covers for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs

For further information, write:
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Washington, D.C. 20207
Web site: www.cpsc.gov

To report a product hazard or a product-related injury, write to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207, or call the CPSC's toll-free hotline at 1-800-638-2772 or visit its website at http://www.cpsc.gov.

A teletypewriter for the hearing and speaking impaired is available on: 1-800-638-8270.

Figure 2



4) Please take some time now to see how this enclosure will look when finished as shown above in figure 1. On the following page, in figure 2 it is shown with a "A" frame ladder. Make sure that you have room to properly install this enclosure before you proceed. If you have questions please contact the dealer where you purchased this enclosure BEFORE you go any further

!! *WARNING*!! YOU MUST INSTALL THIS ENCLOSURE PROPERLY FOR IT TO WORK EFFECTIVELY! FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS!

5) Level the ground so it is even with the bottom of the pool. The ground must be clear and level in the area.

6) Mark the ground where the four (4) posts will go. Figure #2 gives you the proper distances to place the posts. Again, check that you have the correct dimensions and enough clear and level area to properly install the enclosure. Dig four (4) holes that are 6" in diameter, and 20" deep. Double check your distances when you are done.

7) You are now ready to do some partial assembly of the enclosure. Look at the four (4) posts. Familiarize yourself with which ones will go up against the pool or deck, and which ones will be on either side of the gate. The two (2) posts where the gate will go must be positioned so that the gate will open OUTWARD, away from the ladder. The gate must open to the right. Place the post with the threaded holes for the hinges on the right side of the opening.

8) Attach the rear fence section, which is 48 1/2" tall x 36" long, to the two rear posts, only if this is a deck ladder that you will be enclosing.

9) Attach the side fence sections, which are 51" tall x 66" long, to the two rear posts, and the two front posts.

10) Place the partly assembled enclosure into the four(4) post holes you dug out in step #6. Make sure all dimensions are as in figure #2.

11) Attach the hinges to the post and gate with the pre-threaded holes

12) Now make sure that all the posts and fence are securely connected and the measurements on your enclosure match the specifications in figure #2. Where necessary use ropes and stakes to hold the posts in plumb position. Your ladder enclosure should be sitting in the four holes you dug, set up and ready for concrete.

13) Fill the four holes with concrete. Do not use concrete with calcium chloride. Each hole will use about 1/3rd cubic foot of concrete.

14) Re-measure all your posts and fence. Make sure it is all level, square, and plumb. Do this now, before the concrete starts to set.

15) Let the concrete set for 24 hours.

16) Mount the safety gravity latch.

17) Make sure that your gate can open and close easily. Make sure it is clear of any obstructions. Make sure the latch works properly, that it is closing securely.

18) Using a philips head screw driver, adjust the hinges so that the gate closes securely on its own. This is done by tightening the philips head screws on the ends of the hinges.

19) Fasten the Placard sign to the top edge of the gate using self tapping Tek screws. Repeat the process using the self tapping Tek screws to attach the side of the placard to the edge of the gate frame.

Installation Instructions

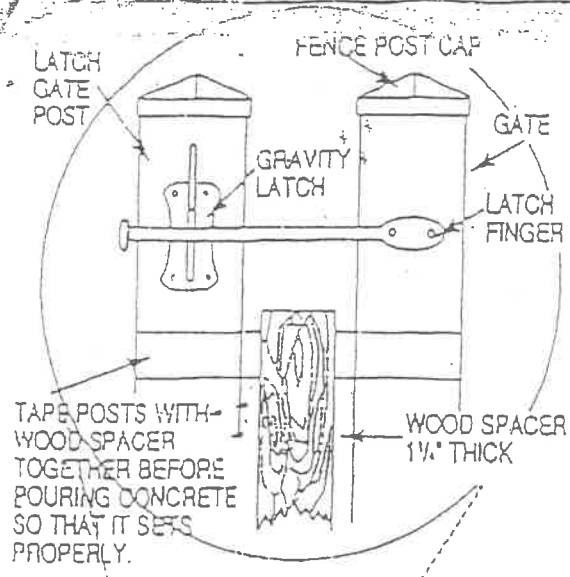


Figure 1A

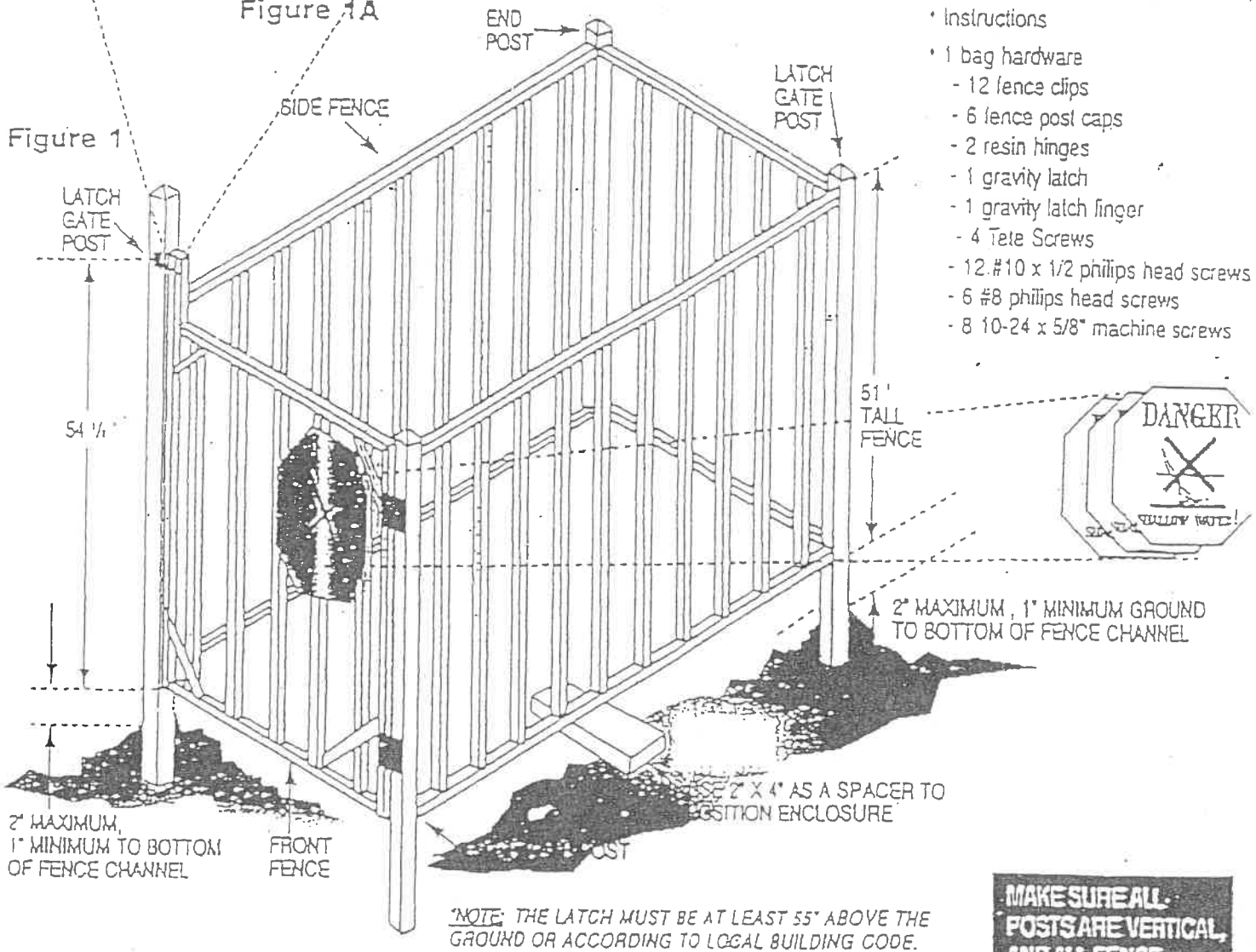


Figure 1

NOTE: THE LATCH MUST BE AT LEAST 55" ABOVE THE GROUND OR ACCORDING TO LOCAL BUILDING CODE.

Parts List

1) Following is a list of all the parts. Please open all of your cartons and make sure you have all of the parts listed. If you do not have all of the parts listed below, STOP! Contact the dealer where you purchased this enclosure, and advise them about what is missing. Without all of the parts needed to construct this enclosure, it cannot function properly and safely

Carton #1

- 2 fence sections 66" long x 51" tall (sides)
- 1 fence section 36" long x 48 1/2" tall (rear)
- 1 gate section 35 1/2" long x 50 3/4" tall (front)
- placard sign

Carton #2

- 1 post 1 1/2" square 79" long (front, where gate latch will attach
- 2 posts 1 1/2" square 70" long (rear corners, with extra slots)
- 1 post 1 1/2" square 70" long (front, where gate hinge will attach)
- Instructions
- 1 bag hardware
  - 12 fence clips
  - 6 fence post caps
  - 2 resin hinges
  - 1 gravity latch
  - 1 gravity latch finger
  - 4 Tete Screws
  - 12 #10 x 1/2 philips head screws
  - 6 #8 philips head screws
  - 8 10-24 x 5/8" machine screws

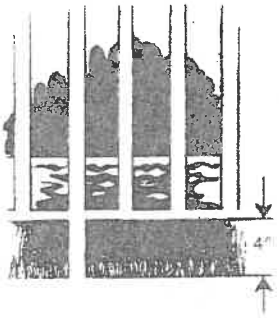
2) READ ALL THE WAY THROUGH THESE DIRECTIONS AT LEAST ONCE BEFORE YOU COME BACK TO STEP #4 AND START INSTALLATION

3) Do not install (if already installed, remove) your "A" frame safety ladder or ground to deck ladder until you have completed installing your ladder enclosure

MAKE SURE ALL POSTS ARE VERTICAL, AND ALL FENCE SECTIONS ARE SQUARE BEFORE AND AFTER POURING CONCRETE

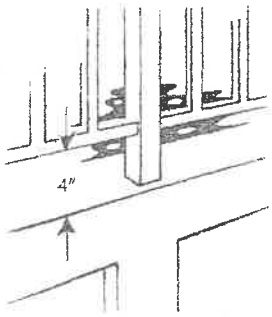
How to Prevent a Child from Getting UNDER a Pool Barrier

For any pool barrier, the maximum clearance at the bottom of the barrier should not exceed 4 inches above grade, when the measurement is done on the side of the barrier facing away from the pool.



Aboveground Pool with Barrier on Top of Pool:

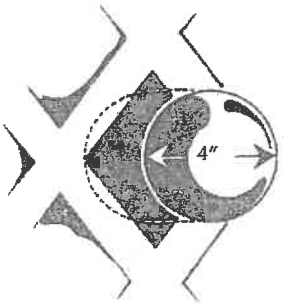
If an aboveground pool has a barrier on the top of the pool, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool and the bottom of the barrier should not exceed 4 inches.



How to Prevent a Child from Getting THROUGH a Pool Barrier

Preventing a child from getting through a pool barrier can be done by restricting the sizes of openings in a barrier and by using self-closing and self-latching gates.

To prevent a young child from getting through a fence or other barrier, all openings should be small enough so that a 4-inch diameter sphere cannot pass through. This size is based on the head breadth and chest depth of a young child.

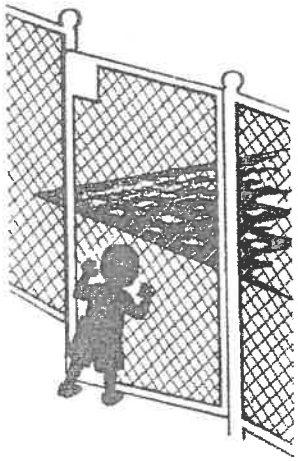


Gates:

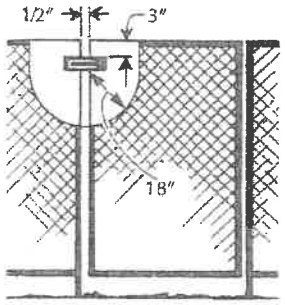
There are two kinds of gates which might be found on a residential property. Both can play a part in the design of a swimming pool barrier.

Pedestrian Gates:

These are the gates people walk through. Swimming pool barriers should be equipped with a gate or gates which restrict access to the pool. A locking device should be included in the gate design. Gates should open out from the pool and should be self-closing and self-latching. If a gate is properly designed, even if the gate is not completely latched, a young child pushing on the gate in order to enter the pool area will at least close the gate and may actually engage the latch.



When the release mechanism of the self-latching device is less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism for the gate should be at least 3 inches below the top of the gate on the side facing the pool. Placing the release mechanism at this height prevents a young child from reaching over the top of a gate and releasing the latch.

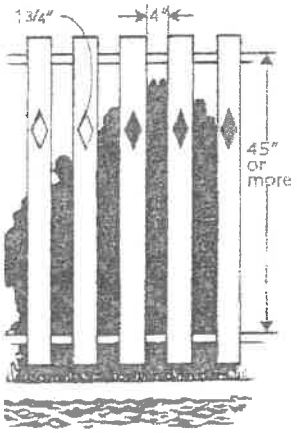


Also, the gate and barrier should have no opening greater than 1/2 inch within 18 inches of the latch release mechanism. This prevents a young child from reaching through the gate and releasing the latch.

All Other Gates (Vehicle Entrances, Etc.):

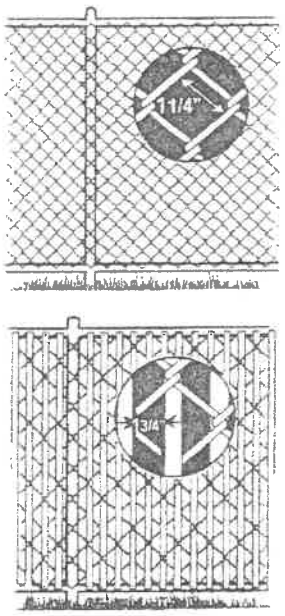
Other gates should be equipped with self-latching devices. The self-latching devices should be installed as described for pedestrian gates.

If the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is more than 45 inches, the horizontal members can be on the side of the fence facing away from the pool. The spacing between vertical members should not exceed 4 inches. This size is based on the head breadth and chest depth of a young child and is intended to prevent a child from passing through an opening. Again, if there are any decorative cutouts in the fence, the space within the cutouts should not exceed 1-3/4 inches.



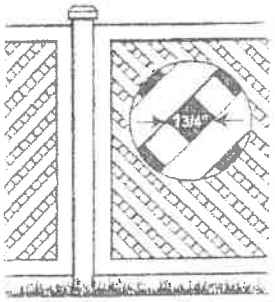
For a Chain Link Fence:

The mesh size should not exceed 1-1/4 inches square unless slats, fastened at the top or bottom of the fence, are used to reduce mesh openings to no more than 1-3/4 inches.

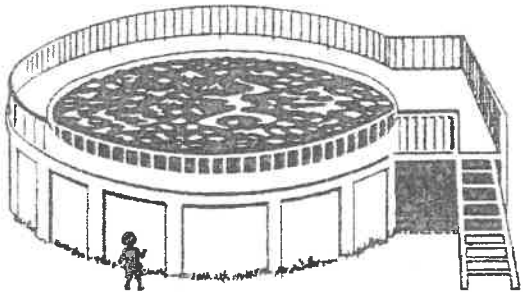


For a Fence Made Up of Diagonal Members (Latticework):

The maximum opening in the lattice should not exceed 1-3/4 inches.

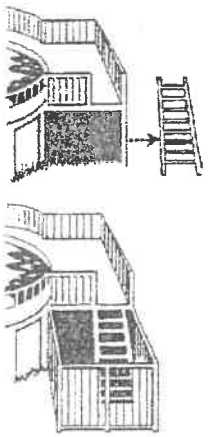


For Aboveground Pools:



Aboveground pools should have barriers. The pool structure itself serves as a barrier or a barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure.

Then, there are two possible ways to prevent young children from climbing up into an aboveground pool. The steps or ladder can be designed to be secured, locked or removed to prevent access, or the steps or ladder can be surrounded by a barrier such as those described above.



Toddler's death in pool called 'tragic accident'

By SHAMUS McGILLICUDDY
The Patriot Ledger

An autopsy shows that the drowning of an 18-month-old Plymouth girl in her family's swimming pool was an accident, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy Cruz said.

The body of the girl was discovered around 5:20 a.m. Sunday by her mother, according to police and firefighters.

Police Capt. Michael Belmont said the girl, identified by news reports as Julie Parsons, woke up in the early morning and went into her parent's bedroom.

"They thought she went back to bed," Belmont said.

Instead the toddler wandered out of the house on Anawon Street and somehow climbed into her family's above-ground swimming pool.

The pool is enclosed by a fence. Belmont said police did not know how the girl got into the pool.

"I don't know if a gate was left open," he said.

Firefighters arrived within minutes of receiving a call from the girl's parents.

Fire Capt. Robert Crone said paramedics tried to revive her as they took her to Jordan Hospital in Plymouth. She was pronounced dead on her arrival.

Belmont called the drowning a tragic accident.

District Attorney Cruz said the death was "not looking suspicious at this point." He said his office was closing its case on the matter.

Attempts to reach the girl's parents, Harold and Melinda Parsons, were unsuccessful.

A woman standing in front of the family's home ordered a reporter to leave the neighborhood yesterday.

Shamus McGillicuddy may be reached at smcgillicuddy@-ledger.com.

MARY TRVALIK

The splash no one heard

IT HAPPENED on Memorial Day, 2002. My daughter, Samantha, was 3.

We always open our pool on Memorial Day. Our neighbor, Rock, is usually around to help with the task. The kids of the two families are close in age, and so charmed with one another as to behave almost like siblings — 90 percent best friends and, on occasion, 10 percent bitter enemies. A back gate in the pool area connects the two yards. As the two dads worked to get the pool open, the moms kept an eye on the kids. They played on the swing set in Rock's backyard, asking when the pool would be ready. Is it ready now? Now? Ready yet? Now?

The day was made a little more stressful because my husband, Bruce, had a flight to catch that evening. He was due to be out of town for the rest of the week. Rock's wife, Jen, knew Bruce would be gone and was busy preparing a meal for us for that evening — a welcome offering for a house with a new baby. I cut up some fresh strawberries and whipped some cream to return the favor. The dads were wrapping up the last of the chores of cleaning up the pool. Bruce had just passed through the kitchen on yet another trip down to the basement to fetch supplies. The two of them had run into a few snags along the way — balky plumbing that didn't co-operate, cranky hardware, pool water that revealed itself as deep green and murky — uninviting, to say the least. But the job was almost done.

I wrapped up my simple dessert and headed out the back door to cross through the pool yard to my neighbor's house. Down the back steps and around a short stretch of fence through the gate to the pool, I saw her at the far end, face down in the awful water, spread-eagle, body slowly, slowly spinning. The

Who is watching the children at the pool?

A ball was floating in the pool, too. There was no one else around.

I remember carefully putting down the dish of strawberries and cream. It was made of glass, and I didn't want it to break. I screamed for help. I had my new baby strapped to my chest; jumping into the water was not a choice. I ran to the end of the pool where she was floating. How long could it have taken for me to cross those 32 feet? Three, maybe four seconds? I can remember her hair, swirling so gently, so beautifully, as she bobbed in the water. Sammy, I thought, you've drowned while I cut up the strawberries. I'm so sorry. I'm so, so sorry. I'm so sorry.

I came around the corner of the deep end and over the diving board. I strained out over the water. Rock was by then running up along the other side of the pool. I tugged a foot, then grabbed a shirt, and in that moment, I knew. Before I had even pulled her out of the pool, I knew by the clothing that it was not my Sammy. It was 18-month-old Fae, Rock and Jen's youngest.

And then the thought I simply can't forgive myself for. I thanked the sweet Lord in Heaven that it was not my baby. Thank you, God, it's not Sammy.

I turned Fae to face me. Her eyes were wide open. She began to howl. I handed her to her dad. I sat down on the diving board. I started to cry, too.

Fae vomited pool water and cried for a good long time. It was clear that she would be fine. She had gotten the scare of her young life, as had all the adults. The siblings gathered around, questioning, worrying the details. My oldest, then 7, had burst into tears, at the sight of *me*, so upset, so unraveled.

As I have read about recent drownings, it all happened so quickly. We pieced it together after the fact: All the adults thought someone else was watching, and Fae followed an errant ball into the pool yard, and then into the pool, undetected. No one had heard so much as a splash. We love our children so much. And we let this happen.

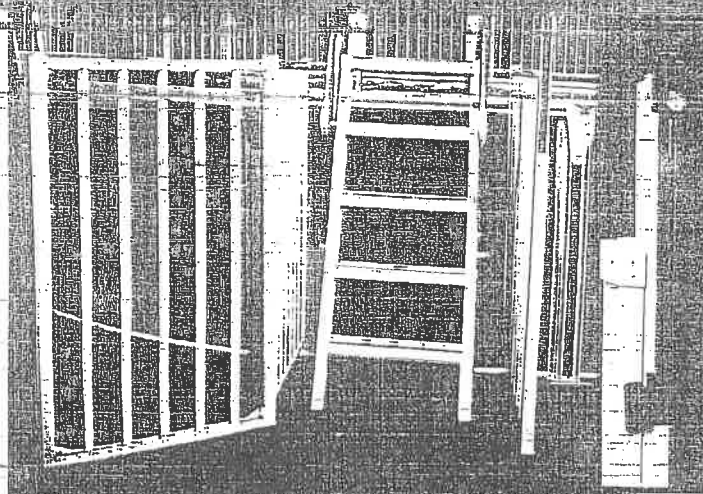
I am a spiritual person. I think I was nudged to deliver the dessert in time to save a life. Others may make of that what they will. In my mind, there were three or four seconds three years ago when I had lost a daughter. There was a terrible, selfish thought I cannot erase. I learned a lesson I will never forget. We were all spared a tragedy. We will be ever vigilant with pool safety.

Other families last weekend were not spared a tragedy. I'm so sorry. I'm so, so sorry. I'm so sorry.

Mary Trvalik *lives in Arlington.*

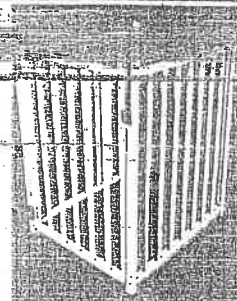
NEW!

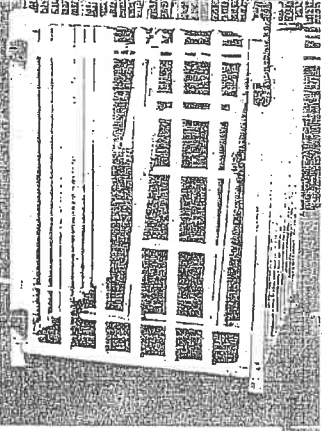
Pool Entry Enclosure System



This enclosure conforms with the latest ANSI/NSPI-8 model barrier code for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs, and with CPSC, SBCCI, CABO, NY State and ICBO building code requirements.

- ☐ A lockable, self-closing and self-latching gate at ground level.
- ☐ The release mechanism is located at 59" above ground level.
- ☐ Magnetic pool latch gate, with no mechanical interference to overcome during closure.
- ☐ No amount of shaking, pushing, or pulling can disengage this latch. Only by lifting or pulling the release knob can the latch be released.
- ☐ Magnet never loses power. Key lockable.
- ☐ Low maintenance. Simple to install.
- ☐ The top rail of the fence enclosure is a minimum of 50" above grade.
- ☐ The bottom rail of the fence enclosure is 2" above grade.
- ☐ The horizontal open air spacing between pickets does not exceed 4" between all vertical pickets and support posts.
- ☐ The distance between the tops of the horizontal members is a minimum of 48".
- ☐ The access gate swings open outward away from the pool, spa or hot tub.
- ☐ All sides of enclosure are prefabricated, ready for installation.
- ☐ A set of polymer resin, glass-filled, composite alloy tension-adjustable hinges are factory-installed on the access gate.
- ☐ Fence enclosure, gate and support posts manufactured from high strength, extruded aluminum. Entire enclosure electrostatically dry powder coated.





Seasonmaster, Inc.

Officials publicize dangers of inflatable pools

Many buyers unaware of requirements for permit, safety fencing

By JEAN PORRAZZO
SouthofBoston.com

When Shelly Littlefield of Taunton bought an inflatable pool last year, she had no idea that safety fencing and a self-latching gate were required.

"We didn't know. No one told us," Littlefield said this week.

Littlefield isn't alone. Most people who buy such poolsdo not know about the regulations, and that has local building inspectors and national safety experts sounding alarms about drowning risks.

"I'll be going out again this week looking for these pools," West Bridgewater Building Inspector Paul Stringham said. "I'm trying to educate people."

The potential for drownings in the easy-to-erect, relatively inexpensive inflatable pools is a growing concern.

Littlefield is having an above-ground pool installed this summer. She's not sure what she will do with the inflatable pool.

"If we give it away, we will tell them they'd better check with their town hall about safety regulations," she said.

Because the pools are inflatable, many people don't associate them with the dangers posed by other types of pools, local officials said.

"I realize it's a cheap way to put a pool in the back yard, but if someone gets hurt, it's not going to be cheap for anybody," Bridgewater Building Inspector David Moore said.

Local building officials said consumers often are not aware that inflatable pools more than 24 inches deep require a pool permit and safety fencing with a self-locking gate.

"They consider it a toy, and that's the problem," Carver Building Commissioner Michael Mendoza said.

East Bridgewater Building Inspector Robert E. Lundberg said the state should outlaw inflatable pools as it does fireworks.

Smaller inflatable pools, about 2 feet deep, can cost as little as $50. Larger ones, up to 4 feet deep and 18 feet wide, can cost less than $200.

They hold from less than 200 to more than 5,000 gallons of water. Larger models may be equipped with circulation pumps and water filters.

"Parents need to understand that any pool poses a drowning risk," U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Chairman Hal Stratton said in a press release. "Consider the danger of water before investing in an inflatable pool."

Because inflatable pools have become larger, owners often do not empty them every night, increasing the risk, safety experts say.

"The retailers selling these things are not alerting the people buying them," West Bridgewater's Stringham said.

EMILY J. NELSON-SouthofBoston.com

Victoria Houlihan, left, watches friends play in an inflatable pool in Taunton. In the pool are, from left, Kaitlynn Grabowski, Cassidy Smith, Taylor Bowser and Makenzie Marra. Many consumers are unaware that a permit and safety fencing are required for inflatable pools more than 24 inches deep.