

## **SWIMMING POOL ENCLOSURES AND SAFETY DEVICES**

**SWIMMING POOLS.** Any structure intended for swimming, recreational bathing or wading that contains water over 24 inches (610 mm) deep. This includes in-ground, above-ground and on-ground pools; hot tubs, spas and fixed-in-place wading pools.

### **2012 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE®**

**3109.4 Residential swimming pools.** Residential swimming pools shall comply with Sections 3109.4.1 through 3109.4.3.

**Exception:** A swimming pool with a power safety cover or a spa, with a safety cover, complying with ASTM F 1346.

**3109.4.1 Barrier height and clearances.** The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches above grade measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, the barrier is authorized to be at ground level or mounted on top of the pool structure, and the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches.

**3109.4.1.1 Openings.** Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter sphere.

**3109.4.1.2 Solid barrier surfaces.** Solid barriers which do not have openings shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.

**3109.4.1.3 Closely spaced horizontal members.** 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 1.75 inches in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75 inches in width.

**3109.4.1.4 Widely spaced horizontal members.** 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 1.75 inches in width.

**3109.4.1.5 Chain link dimensions.** Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2.25 inch square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to no more than 1.75 inches.

**3109.4.1.6 Diagonal members.** Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be no more than 1.75 inches.

**3109.4.1.7 Gates.** Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Sections 3109.4.1.1 through 3109.4.1.6 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. Release mechanisms shall be in accordance with Sections 1008.1.8 and 1109.13. Where the release

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mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate, and the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than 0.5 inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.

**3109.4.1.8 Dwelling wall as a barrier.** Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following shall apply:

1. Doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm that produces an audible warning when the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm shall be listed in accordance with UL 2017. The audible alarm shall activate within 7 seconds and sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds after the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened and be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal household activities. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm shall be equipped with a manual means, such as touchpad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch shall be located 54 inches or more above the threshold of the door.
2. The pool shall be equipped with a power safety cover that complies with ASTM F 1346.
3. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the administrative authority, shall be accepted so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Section 3109.4.1.8, Item 1 or 2.

**3109.4.1.9 Pool structure as barrier.** 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 the ladder or steps either shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access, or the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of Sections 3109.4.1.1 through 3109.4.1.8. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch-diameter sphere.

**3109.4.2 Indoor swimming pools.** Walls surrounding indoor swimming pools shall not be required to comply with Section 3109.4.1.8.

**3109.4.3 Prohibited locations.** Barriers shall be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers.

**PLEASE NOTE: The depth of the water in the pool cannot exceed twenty-four inches (24") until the pool has been inspected and approved by the City of Columbia.**

**If your project description for this permit includes a pool deck the deck must be completed at the time of the final inspection of your pool.**

**If you plan to add a deck at a later date you will be required to obtain a separate building permit for your deck.**

**I have read and understand the listed pool requirements. I will verify that these requirements have been met and call (931) 560-1540 for a final inspection of my pool, and deck if applicable, within fourteen (14) days after the pool installation has been completed.**

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Signature & Address of Owner

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Date Signed