

# Pool Barrier Guidelines

**Please note: the pool barrier requirements must be met whether or not children of any age are living at the dwelling.**

## Fences

Chandler City Code requires a 6-foot minimum to a 7-foot maximum perimeter fence around the property, as measured on the outside of the property. This fence may be a solid masonry or wrought iron fence.

## Pool Barriers

Chapter 31 of the 2006 International Building Code requires a pool barrier:

- For residential pools, a 5-foot minimum wrought iron or block and wrought iron combination measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool.
- Self-closing, self-latching devices on doors that open into the pool area (refer to the door and window information in the "Pool Barrier Guidelines" section).
- Window devices (refer to the door and window information in the "Pool Barrier Guidelines" section).
- Audible alarms on doors and screens (refer to the alarm information in the "Pool Barrier Guidelines" section).
- Approved lockable or latchable hard cover for spas with a water area under 8 feet wide (refer to safety covers information in the "Pool Barrier Guidelines" section).
- Approved key-operated, motorized safety cover that complies with ASTM F 1346 (refer to safety covers information in the "Pool Barrier Guidelines" section).

## Gates

If no interior fence is present, the gate on the perimeter fence must swing outward from the pool and be self-closing and self-latching.

If a separate interior fence is present, the perimeter gate may swing in either direction, be self-closing or self-latching, but if a fence is in place, the gate is not required to be self-closing and self-latching. Refer to Zoning Code Chapter 35 Section 2205 (4).

All gate leafs 4 feet or less are to be considered as pedestrian gates and must be self-closing and self-latching, with a latch height at 54 inches above grade. An RV gate that is the only way to get from the front of the house to the back of the house, without going through the house (i.e. it may also be used as a pedestrian gate), requires one of the leafs to be self-closing and self-latching regardless of how wide it is if there is not a separate interior fence.

All gate leafs over 4 feet must be secured with a locking device and be kept locked.

A spring-loaded hinge may be used to make a gate self-closing. This is a stretch spring mounted horizontally from the gate to a post or pilaster or a torque spring mounted in an almost vertical position from the gate to a post or pilaster. The torque spring is to be mounted on the face of the gate that will allow the torque spring to unwind and PUSH the gate to the latched position.

## **POOL BARRIER GUIDELINES**

### Barrier

Pool barriers shall be an interior fence, perimeter wall, building wall or a combination thereof, which completely surrounds the swimming pool. The top of the barrier, including all gates and doors therein, shall not be less than 5 feet above finished floor or finished grade measured on the exterior side of the enclosure.

There shall be no horizontal or vertical openings, holes, or gaps in the interior barrier large enough for a sphere 4 inches in diameter to pass through. 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 pool.

A barrier fence or wall shall have no handholds, footholds or horizontal members accessible from the exterior side of the enclosure. Horizontal members of fences shall be spaced not less than 45 inches apart measured vertically, or shall be placed on the pool side of a fence which has no opening greater than 1¾ inches measured horizontally. Wire mesh or chain link fences shall have a maximum mesh size of 2 ¼ inches square.

In addition, the exterior fence enclosure for swimming pools (as required by Chapter 35-2205 of the City Code) need not necessarily be located on the side or rear property lines.

### Gates and Doors

All pedestrian access gates in a pool barrier shall be self-closing and self-latching and must open outward from the pool. Gate latches shall be located not less than 54 inches above finished grade or shall otherwise be made inaccessible from the outside by small children.

All exterior hinged or sliding doors leading from a dwelling unit, bedroom, garage or storage room directly into a swimming pool enclosure shall be self-closing or shall be equipped with audible alarms. Hinged doors shall open away from the pool area.

Self-closing devices shall consist of one of the following:

- Spring loaded hinges.
- Pneumatic closures (without stops).

- Approved sliding glass door closures.

Latching mechanisms shall consist of one of the following:

- Passage lock located 54 inches above the finished floor.
- Double cylinder gate latch installed at any height, provided the door is not required for emergency egress.
- Sliding glass door latches shall be located 54 inches above the finished floor.

Alarms shall produce an audible warning when the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm shall be listed in accordance with UL 2017.

If a pet door is large enough that a sphere 4 inches in diameter will pass through, and is located in any wall of the dwelling that forms a part of the interior barrier, it must be rendered unusable with screws or nails so the slide portion of the pet door cannot be removed.

### Windows

All windows facing on a swimming pool enclosure shall be equipped with a latching device.

For emergency escape or rescue windows, the latching device shall be located not less than 54 inches above the finished floor.

For all other openable dwelling unit or garage windows, the latching device shall consist of one of the following:

- A keyed lock that prevents opening the window more than 4 inches.
- A screwed-in-place wire mesh screen.
- A latching device located not less than 54 inches above the finished floor.

### Safety Covers

A hard safety cover, which may be latched or locked, shall be deemed to meet all barrier requirements of this section for any spa or hot tub, which does not exceed 8 feet in width at any peripheral point.

A key-operated, motorized safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346 may be used to meet the requirements of this section for a barrier between a single family dwelling and a swimming pool accessory to that dwelling, provided that the requirements of the City of Chandler Zoning Code, Chapter 35, Section 2205 are met. (This code section refers to the requirement for a 6-foot high perimeter fence.)

### Above Ground Swimming Pools

All above ground pools, with non-climbable sides not less than 48 inches high above the finished grade, may be located on a single-family residential property without requiring an interior fence, wall or barrier between the pool and the dwelling. 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 that meets the requirements of an in ground pool. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch-diameter sphere.

#### Entrapment Avoidance

Suction outlets shall be designed to produce circulation throughout the pool or spa. Single outlet systems, such as automatic vacuum cleaner systems, or other such multiple suction outlets whether isolated by valves or otherwise shall be protected against user entrapment.