



Policy For Barriers and Enclosures for Residential (R-3) Swimming Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs*

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Whenever a building permit is issued for construction of a new swimming pool, spa, or hot tub, or for the remodel of an existing pool, spa, or hot tub at a private single-family home, it shall be equipped with **at least two** of the following seven drowning prevention safety features. The meaning of "swimming pool" or "pool" in this policy refers to any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 18 inches deep and includes in-ground and above ground structures and includes but is not limited to hot tubs, spas, portable spas, and non-portable wading pools. This policy does not apply to hot tubs or spas with locking safety covers that comply with ASTM F1346.

DROWNING PREVENTION SAFETY FEATURES

- Enclosure:** An enclosure that has all of the following characteristics and isolates the swimming pool or spa from the private single-family residence:
 - Any access gates through the enclosure open away from the swimming pool and/or spa and are self-closing with a self-latching device placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground.
 - A minimum height of 60 inches.
 - A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of two inches.
 - Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than four inches 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.
- Removable Mesh Fencing:** Removable mesh fencing that meets American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Specifications F2286 standards in conjunction with a gate that is self-closing and self-latching and can accommodate a key lockable device.
- Safety Cover:** An approved safety pool cover either manually or power-operated cover that meets all of the requirements of ASTM F1346.
- Exit Alarms:** Doors providing direct access to the pool from the dwelling shall be equipped with exit alarms. The exit alarm may cause either an alarm noise or a verbal warning, such as a repeating notification that "the door to the pool is open."
- Self-closing, Self-Latching Doors:** All doors providing direct access from the home to the pool shall be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches minimum above the floor.
- Pool Alarms:** An alarm that, when placed in a swimming pool or spa, will sound upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. The alarm shall meet and be independently certified to the ASTM Standard F2208 "Standard Safety Specification for Residential Pool Alarms," which includes surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser, and infrared type alarms. A swimming protection alarm feature designed for individual use, including an alarm attached to a child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water, is not a qualifying drowning prevention safety feature.
- Other Means of Protection:** Other means of protection, if the degree of protection afforded is equal to or greater than that afforded by any of the features set forth above and has been independently verified by an approved testing laboratory as meeting standards for those features established by the ASTM or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

Before the issuance of a final approval for the completion of permitted construction or remodeling work, the local building code official shall inspect the drowning safety prevention features required by this section and, if no violations are found, shall give final approval.

*State of California Health and Safety Code, Article 2.5 The Swimming Pool Safety Act (11520-11529).