



City of Fullerton
Building Division
303 W. Commonwealth Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92832

Residential Swimming Pool Requirements

Note: All code references refer to Code Sections of the 2019 California Residential Code and includes Fullerton Municipal Code Amendments

Section 1: Construction Permit; Safety Features Required

Except as provided in Section AV100.5, when a building permit is issued for the construction of a new swimming pool or spa or the remodeling of an existing swimming pool or spa at a private single-family home, the respective swimming pool or spa shall be equipped with item #1 below and at least one additional of the following seven drowning prevention features:

1. An enclosure that meets the requirements of AV100.3 and isolates the swimming pool and spa from the private single-family home. Any walls of the residential structure or accessory structures used to complete the isolation enclosure must have door openings equipped with protection as required in AV100.2 (a) #4 or #5. Any such door protection device provided for this purpose may not be used to comply with the second drowning prevention feature requirement.
2. 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.
3. An approved safety pool cover, as defined in Section AV100.1.
4. Exit alarms on the private single-family home's doors that provide direct access to the swimming pool or spa. 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."
5. A self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches (1372 mm) above the floor on the private single-family home's doors providing direct access to the swimming pool or spa.
6. 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 feature.
7. 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).

Section 2: Required Enclosure Characteristics

An enclosure shall have all of the following characteristics:

1. 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 inches (1524 mm) above the ground.
2. A minimum height of 60 inches (1524 mm).
3. A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of 2 inches (51 mm).
4. Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than 4 inches (102 mm) in diameter.
5. 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.
6. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice or chain link fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be no more than 2-1/4 inches. Posts shall be spaced at not over eight feet on center. The bottom wire of a chain link fence shall be staked to the ground, between support posts, unless provided with a bottom rail or pipe.
7. Access gates shall have a width no greater than four feet. Gates shall be self-closing and self-latching and swing in the direction of exit from the pool area. The latching device shall be capable of keeping the gate securely latched at all times when not in use.
8. The barrier shall be so arranged and constructed so that no impediment to a required exit is created, and a minimum of a three foot wide walking path is maintained between the barrier and the water.
9. All swimming pool and spa water shall be maintained in a clear condition which is free of significant algae, insects, debris and in a sanitary condition. The entire floor of the pool shall be clearly visible.