

ALTOONA, BONDURANT AND MITCHELLVILLE SWIMMING POOLS/HOT TUBS

These requirements are for portable (typical big box store types including inflatable's) and permanent pools/hot tubs

Altoona/Bondurant - A swimming pool is defined as a water filled enclosure, permanently constructed or portable, having a depth of more than eighteen inches below the level of the surrounding land, or an above-surface pool having a depth of more than thirty inches designed, used and maintained for swimming and bathing.

Mitchellville – A swimming pool is defined as a water filled enclosure, permanently constructed or portable, having a depth of more than eighteen inches designed, used and maintained for swimming and bathing.

Barrier Requirements

1. A six foot high non-climbable barrier (fence, wall, etc) must surround the swimming pool. Refer to the fence handout for general Zoning fencing requirements and acceptable locations on corner lots. The materials for this barrier can consist of the following:
 - A. Wooden Privacy fence
 - B. Chain link fence
 - C. Solid Barrier such as a Masonry Wall
 - D. Any other material that is approved by this department – Information must be submitted and reviewed prior to approval.
2. The barrier shall meet the following design criteria:
 - A. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1 ¾" in width.
 - B. Decorative cutouts within vertical members shall not exceed 1 ¾" in width.
 - C. If barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as lattice the maximum opening shall not be more than 1 ¾".
 - D. The maximum mesh size for chain link fencing shall be 2 ¼" square.
 - E. Barriers which are solid (such as masonry or stone) shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.
 - F. If barrier is located on top of pool structure then the maximum opening between the pool structure and barrier shall not exceed 4 inches.
3. Dwelling wall as part of enclosure (meaning that the wall of the house serves as one or more sides of the swimming pool enclosure) then the following criteria must be met:
 - A. The pool must be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F1346, or
 - B. Doors in the wall that provide access to the swimming pool must be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and/or its screen, if present, is opened. The alarm must be listed in accordance with UL 2017. The audible alarm shall activate within 7 seconds and sound continuously for 30 seconds after the door/screen is opened. The alarm must be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal house activities. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm system must be equipped with a manual means, such as a touch pad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Deactivation shall not last more than 15 seconds and the switch shall be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door, or
 - C. Other protection such as self closing doors with self latching devices which are approved by the department can be installed if the same degree of protection is being afforded that is not less than the two described above.
4. Access Gates
 - A. The gate structure must meet all the requirements as those listed for the barrier.

- B. Gate must swing in the direction away from the pool. Must be self closing and self latching.
- C. If the release mechanism of the self latching device is less than 54 inches above grade then the release mechanism must be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top and the gate and barrier shall have no opening larger than ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.

Ladders

- 1. If an above ground pool is part of the barrier system or where barrier is mounted on top of pool structure and the means of access is via ladder or steps then the following must apply:
 - A. Ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access; or
 - B. Ladder or steps shall be surrounded by the barrier, which meets the requirements listed above.
 - C. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4 inch diameter sphere.

Safety glazing

- 1. When pools and walking surfaces are close to glass there becomes a concern and these areas are defined as hazardous locations. The window that has been originally installed in the wall of your home may need to be replaced with Safety Glazing (typically tempered glazing) due to the installation of a pool or deck. The closer your pool is to your home the more critical glazing requirements become. The following are some areas of concern that if are applicable then safety glass becomes a concern:
 - A. Deck surfaces. If you construct a deck or a deck exists then the requirements for safety glazing is included in the deck handout including areas near stairs and landings. Please refer to the handout for details.
 - B. Glass in walls/fences enclosing pools where the bottom edge of the glass is less than 60 inches above the walking surface and within 60 inches horizontally of the waters edge shall be safety glazed.

Easements and Location

- 1. No structure is allowed to be constructed on an easement, even if it's a public utility easement. The city does not have the right to grant permission to construct on property that is dedicated to others for their use. Please contact the department for the location of any easements you may have on your property. Corner lots and those lots adjacent to drainage ways may be restricted more due to the amount of easement on the property.
- 2. The pool must be at least 3 feet (Altoona) 4 feet (Mitchellville), 5 feet (Bondurant) from a property line.

Electrical

- 1. Pools have very strict electrical guidelines that must be adhered too. These guidelines are based on a history of events and are intended to prevent accidents. Portable pools and permanent pools have different requirements. If a pool is being installed on your property please contact staff as to what these regulations are.

Permits

- 1. Permits are required for pools and hot tubs. Applications can be obtained on our website at www.altoona-iowa.com. Click under "City Departments" then scroll down and click on "Building" or you can obtain one at 1504 8th Street SW – Building and Zoning Department. Permits for Mitchellville must be obtained through the Mitchellville City Hall. Also prior to any construction you need to call 1-800-One-Call for locates. This is a free service and is mandated by State Law if you do any excavating on your property.

Hot Tubs

- 1. Hot tubs with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F1346 are exempt from the barrier requirements listed above. This applies to Altoona only, if you live in Bondurant or Mitchellville please contact staff first.