



## SWIMMING POOLS AND HOT TUBS

### Definition

“Residential Swimming Pool” - A water filled enclosure accessory to a one or two family dwelling or townhouse structure, that is portable or permanently constructed, intended for swimming or recreational bathing that has the ability to contain water more than 24 inches (610 mm) in depth. This includes in-ground, aboveground, and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas.”

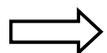


### Before You Construct

1. A permit is required for any water-filled enclosure meeting the above definition. The permit fee for an above ground pool is \$30.00 if the pool is less than 15 feet in any dimension, \$75.00 if the pool is more than 15 feet in any dimension. Hot tubs are \$50.00. Below ground pools are based on valuation.
2. A building permit can be obtained at **900 Venbury Dr, Ste A** in Altoona. We will need a **permit application** with information including 1) the size and depth of the pool and 2) what the code compliant barrier for the pool will be. We will also need an **aerial site plan** showing pool location and distances from property lines. Questions? Call 515-957-5128.
3. Before you dig please call 1-800-292-8989 (Iowa One Call) for locates. Typically it takes 24 to 48 hours to be completed. Required by State Law.
4. Check your restrictive covenants. The City of Altoona does not review nor enforce any covenant requirements associated with your property. It is the property owner’s responsibility to ensure compliance with your covenants.

### General Information

- All swimming pools and hot tubs must be located in the rear yard and out of any easements.
- All electrical work requires a permit obtained by an electrical contractor, licensed with the State of Iowa. State of Iowa licensed electricians shall perform all electrical work. A homeowner may perform the work if he/she can demonstrate competency by passing the City of Altoona homeowner’s exam.
- All mechanical work requires a permit obtained by the homeowner or a licensed mechanical contractor.
- Inspections require 24-hour notice and can be scheduled by calling 515-957-5128.
- All private residential outdoor swimming pools, including in-ground, above ground, or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa located in any zoned district shall be surrounded by a barrier complying with fence regulations as outlined in the Fence Handout, and with the following:  
**EXCEPTION-** Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F1346 shall be exempt from the barrier provisions.



## **Barrier**

- The top of the barrier shall be at least 4 feet above grade, measured on the side of the barrier facing away from the swimming pool. Such height shall exist around the entire perimeter of the barrier and for a distance of 3 feet measured horizontally from the outside of the required barrier. There shall be a clear zone of not less than 36 inches between the exterior of the barrier and any permanent structures or equipment such as pumps, filters, heaters, sheds, playground equipment, et al., that can be used to climb the barrier. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the barrier is 3 inches measured on the side of the barrier facing away from the swimming pool. In instances where with the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an above-ground pool, the barrier may be at ground level or mounted on top of the pool structure. A pool cannot be its own barrier. If the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier is 4 inches.
- Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.
- Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.
- If the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members, such as a wood fence, the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1 ¾ inches. If there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 ¾ inches in width.
- Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 1 ¾ inch square unless the fence has slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to not more than 1 ¾ inches.
- If the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall not be more than 1 ¾ inches.

### **Access Gates**

Access gates shall comply with the requirements above 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. If the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism and openings shall comply with the following:

- A. The release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate, AND
- B. The gate and barrier shall have no opening larger than ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.
- C. Gates other than pedestrian access gates do not require a self-closing or self-latching device and shall remain locked when not in use.

### **Ladders/Steps**

If an above-ground pool has a barrier where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps, the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets all the barrier requirements outlined above.