

Pool Safety Tips

Staying Close, Being Alert and Watching Children in and Around the Pool

- Never leave a child unattended in a pool or spa and always watch your child when he or she is in or near water



- Teach children basic water safety tips

Learning and Practicing Water Safety Skills

- Learn how to swim and teach your child how to swim
- Learn to perform CPR on children and adults, and update those skills regularly

Having the Appropriate Equipment for Your Pool or Spa

- Install a four-foot or taller fence around the pool and spa and use self-closing and self-latching gates; ask your neighbors to do the same at their pools.
- Install and use a lockable safety cover on your spa.
- Install pool and gate alarms to alert you when children go near the water
- Ensure any pool and spa you use has compliant drain covers, and ask your pool service provider if you do not know
- Maintain pool and spa covers in good working order



For more pool safety information, please visit <http://poolsafely.gov>

Obtain your permit online at www.rockfordil.gov



Construction & Development Services
Permit Center

1st Floor
425 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61104

Phone: 815-987-5550
Fax: 815-967-4243
Web: www.Rockfordil.gov



Construction &
Development Services

Swimming Pool Safety



Tel: 815 987 5550

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Construction & Development Services
Community and Economic Development

Swimming Pool Safety

The City of Rockford has adopted codes that provide rules and regulations for the installation of swimming pools.

Q. What is considered a Swimming Pool?

A. A swimming pool is a structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that is at least **24 inches deep**. This can include: above ground pools, on-ground, in-ground pools, inflatable pools, hot tubs and spas.

[Swimming pools that meet this definition require building permits.](#)



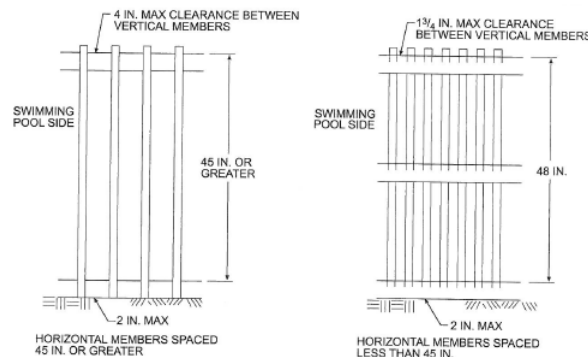
Rules and Regulations

A SWIMMING POOL REQUIRES A 48 INCH HIGH BARRIER TO PROTECT IT

For pools **under 48 inches** (4 feet) in height but **more than 24 inches** (2 feet), a **barrier** is required. A **Barrier** must be at least 48 inches (4 feet) in height and not have any openings 4 inches or greater. This can be a fence (chain or wrought iron for example). If the barrier has horizontal or diagonal members such as a lattice fence, the openings formed shall not be more than 1 3/4 inches. The maximum mesh size for chain link fences must not exceed 2 1/4 inches square.



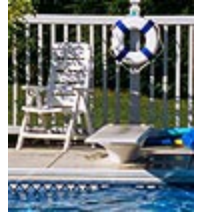
Access gates must comply with the above also and be lockable and self latching.



Rules & Regulations Continued...

For above ground pools greater than **48 inches** (4 feet) in height a **barrier** is still required.

However, the pool structure itself may be able to be used as the barrier as long as the ladder or steps are capable of being locked, secured, or removed to prevent access. In addition to be self latching, **Pedestrian access gates** must swing outward and be self closing. Latches shall be located 54 inches in height, but if lower, must be not readily available for access from the outside.



Why is a permit required?

A building permit is required so that we can verify the following:

- The pool placement will not be in an easement, floodway, or within a property setback.
- The barrier requirements are met depending on the type of pool installation.
- We can perform an inspection once the pool is installed to ensure it is installed correctly and safely.
- That the pool is located in the rear or side yard as required by the City of Rockford Zoning Ordinance.