

Access Gates

Access Gates shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outwards, away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. When the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, a release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate, at least 3 inches below the top of the gate and the gate and barrier shall not have an opening greater than ½ inch within 18” of the release mechanism.

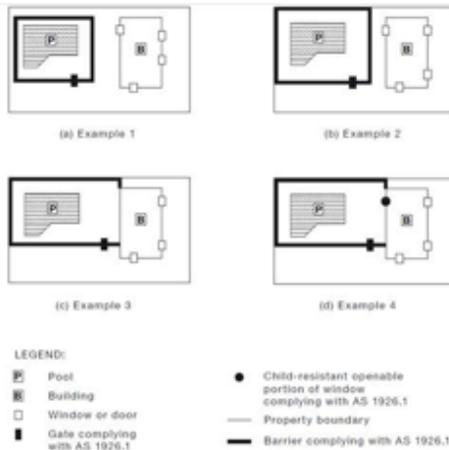


FIGURE 2.1 TYPICAL EXAMPLES OF OUTDOOR POOL BARRIER LOCATIONS.

When a wall of the dwelling serves as part of the barrier (EX. #3):

All doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and its screen, if present, are opened. **Almost half of all children involved in a drowning or near-drowning accident gained access to the pool from inside the dwelling through a hinged or sliding door.**

Additional Requirements

PERMITS:

A Building and Electrical permit is required prior to the installation, alteration or enlargement of all pools meeting the specifications outlined in this brochure.

FEES:

\$50.00 Above ground pool
\$100.00 In-ground pool
Electrical permit: \$90.00 (2 inspections)

Reduce the risk of electrical shock

Electrical work is required to conform to the MA Electrical Code (527 CMR 12.00)

As a safety rule of thumb, do not run electrical extension cords to provide power for filtration and lighting in or around the swimming pool.

PLANS:

A plot plan accurately showing the dimensions and construction method of the pool, including side and when applicable rear set backs and septic lines.

LOCATION:

The pool and any structural deck shall be located a minimum of 10 feet from side and rear of the property lines.



**Hanson Building
Department**

**What you need to
know about:**

Swimming Pool Installation Requirements

Town of Hanson

Hanson Building Department
(781) 293-5503
Hanson Wiring Inspector
Ed Savage (781) 217-8488

Tel: 781-293-5503

Importance of Regulations

The State Building Code defines a swimming pool as: "Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24" (inches) in depth. This includes in-ground and above ground and on ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas."

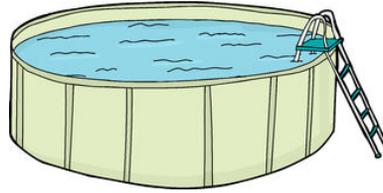
In light of the many tragedies involving the drowning of small children in backyard pools the Building Department would like all homeowners interested in installing pools in their yards to be aware of the importance of following installation regulations.

Some of these important regulations involve the placement and size of protective barriers surrounding the pool and also self-closing self-latching gates. The following provisions are intended to provide protection against small children who may enter a pool without adult supervision.

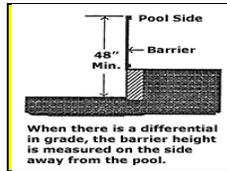
All pools are subject to the regulations cited in the **Massachusetts Building Code**, unless the pool is less than 2 feet deep. Primarily this excludes; small plastic or inflatable children's pools, spas or hot tubs with an **approved safety cover**, and fixtures which are drained after each use.



Above Ground Pools



Barriers (including fences and walls) surrounding above ground pools shall be **at least 48 inches** (4 feet) tall, measured from the level ground on the side of the barrier facing away from the pool. If the sides of the pool are 48 inches the pool can serve as the barrier. If not, the barrier shall be mounted to the top of the pool structure to equal 48 inches. If this method is chosen, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool and the bottom of the barrier shall be no more than 4 inches.

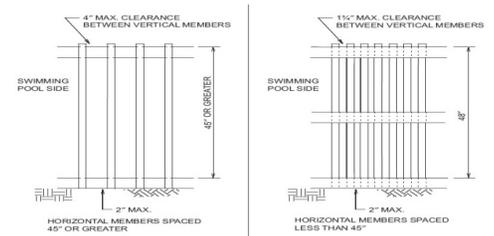


When an above ground pool is used as part of a barrier, or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and means of access is a ladder or steps:

1. The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access or;
2. The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of Section AG105.2, items 1-9. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter (102mm) sphere.

In Ground Pools

When stockade-type fencing is used as the barrier material and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45" inches or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4" inches. When the distance between the tops of the vertical members is less than 45" inches, the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence, to keep children from climbing the fence like a ladder to enter the pool area. Spacing between vertical members of this type of fence shall not exceed 1 3/4 inches in width and decorative cutouts shall not exceed 1 3/4 inches in width.



The maximum vertical clearance between the level ground and the bottom of the barrier shall be no greater than 2 inches, again, measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the pool.

When lattice-type fencing is used as the barrier material, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be not more than 1 3/4 inches.

If chain link fencing is used, the maximum mesh size shall be 2 1/4 inches square, unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or the bottom, which reduce the openings to not more than 1 3/4 inches. These dimension restrictions are intended to reduce the potential for a child to gain a foothold or handhold to climb the fence.

Solid Barriers shall not contain indentations or protrusions, except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints. All barriers shall be located where no permanent structures, equipment or similar objects may be used to climb the barriers. Pumps and other equipment located adjacent to the pool present a hazard in that the pump may provide a means by which small children could climb and gain access to the pool.