



**CITY OF ONTARIO
BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

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**INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

114

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Revised: -

**SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

Pursuant to 2022 California Building Code Section 3109 and 2022 California Residential Code Appendix AX, 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 at least **two (2)** of the following seven (7) drowning prevention safety features:



- 1) An enclosure that meets the requirements of an enclosure and isolates the swimming pool or spa from the private single-family home. An enclosure shall have all of the following characteristics:
 - a) 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 above the ground.
 - b) A minimum height of 60 inches.
 - c) A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of two inches.
 - d) Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than four inches in diameter.
 - e) 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.
- 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: "An approved safety pool cover is a manually or power-operated safety pool cover that meets all of the performance standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), in compliance with standard F1346-91".
- 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 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 safety 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 independent verified by an approved testing laboratory as meeting standards for those features established by the ASTM or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

Self-contained spas and hot tubs with listed locking safety covers that comply with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM F1346) will not require the enclosure.

Any gates other than pedestrian access gates (e.g. vehicle gates) are not required to be self-closing or self-latching when equipped with lockable hardware or padlocks and remained locked at all times when not in use.

DEFINITIONS (per *Swimming Pool Safety Act found in Health and Safety Code Section 115921*):

ENCLOSURE: A fence, wall or other approved barriers that isolates a swimming pool from access to the home.

SWIMMING POOL or POOL: Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 18 inches deep. "Swimming pool" includes in-ground and above ground structures and includes, but is not limited to, hot tubs, spas, portable spas and nonportable wading pools.

NOTE:

POOL ENCLOSURE AND DROWNING SAFETY MEASURE SHALL BE INSTALLED AT THE TIME OF PRE-PLASTER INSPECTION.



11-7-24

