



SWIMMING POOL, SPA, HOT TUB & BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

BUILDING DIVISION

(530) 795-4910 Ext. 112 or 117 Fax (530) 795-4935

318 First Street Winters, CA 95694

Please check with City of Winters Public Works Department regarding encroachment permit requirements prior to submitting for permit application.

Inspection Requirements:

1. Pre-Dig Site Inspection
2. Pre-Gunite Inspection
3. Pre-Deck Inspection
4. Pre-Plaster Inspection - During this inspection all required fences, gates and alarms must be in place. A check of the wet-niche lighting fixtures, electrical wiring and equipment to the service panel must be completed and will be inspected.
5. Final Inspection. For fiberglass pools please contact the Building Department at 530-795-4910 x117.

Hydrostatic Relief Values

A hydrostatic relief valve is required for gunite pools located in areas with high water tables or when water is encountered during pool construction. The valve is needed to prevent rising ground water from putting pressure on the bottom of the pool, which can cause serious structural damage to a pool that is not full. It is recommended that a hydrostatic relief valve be installed in each gunite pool within the City of Winters.

Location of Pool Equipment

Fossil fuel pool heating vents are required to be a minimum 4' from a property line. Other pool equipment must be a minimum 3' from a property line. In either case no pool equipment can be located within 10' of a dwelling unit on an adjacent property unless it is located with a sound proof enclosure. Venting systems for heaters shall terminate not less than 4' below or 4' horizontally from, nor no less than 1' above a door, window or gravity-air inlet into building.

Energy Efficiency Requirements

When a fossil fuel heater is installed all of the following are required:

1. Pool cover is installed for outdoor pools or outdoor spas.
2. At least a 36" pipe between the filter and heater is installed to allow for the future addition of solar heating equipment.
3. Pools that have directional outlets and the circulation pump must have a time switch.

Safety Glazing

Glazing in walls and fences, used as the barrier for indoor and outdoor swimming pools and spas, shall be tempered when all of the following conditions are present:

1. The bottom edge of the glazing is less than 60" above the pool or spa deck.
2. The glazing is within 5' of the swimming pool or spa's water edge.

Contractors Responsibility

Any person entering into an agreement to build a swimming pool or spa shall give the consumer notice of the requirements of the swimming pool or spa barrier. Health and Safety Code, Section 115924.

Notification of pool/spa barrier requirements handout must be completed and approved by this office prior to permit issuance.

POOL BARRIERXENCING REQUIREMENTS (State Health and Safety Code Section 115920 to 115927)

INTENT: The intent of the swimming pool barrier requirement is to prevent uncontrolled access by children from adjacent properties and from the home to the pool/spa area.

DEFINITIONS:

1. Swimming pool or pool means any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that may contains water over 18" deep. Swimming pool includes in-ground and aboveground structures and includes, but is not to limited to hot tubs, spas, portable spas, and non-portable wading pools.
2. Enclosure means a fence, wall or other barrier that isolates a swimming pool from access to the home or from adjacent properties.
3. Approved safety pool cover means 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 means devices that make audible, continuous alarm sounds when any door or window, that permits access from the residence to the pool area that is without any intervening enclosure, is opened or is left ajar. Exit alarms may be battery operated or may be connected to the electrical wiring of the building. Exit alarms may not be allowed to be inoperable with a switch or lock out device.

REQUIRED SAFETY FEATURES: Both 1 and 2 must be complied with.

1. The pool shall be isolated from access to a home by one of the following methods prior to filling with water:
 - a. The pool shall be isolated from access to a home by any enclosure that meets the requirements of Section 3152B (see below).
 - b. The pool shall be equipped with an approved safety cover.
 - c. The residence shall be equipped with exit alarms on those doors providing direct access to the pool.
 - d. All doors providing direct access from the home to the swimming pool shall be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54" above the floor.
 - e. Other means of protection, if the degree of protection afforded is equal to or greater than that afforded by any of the devices set forth in subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, as determined by the building official of the jurisdiction issuing the applicable building permit.

2. The pool shall be permanently walled or fenced so as to prevent uncontrolled access by children from a street or adjacent properties by any enclosure that meets the requirements of Section 3152B (see below) prior to filling with water.

SECTION 3152B. An enclosure shall have all of the following characteristics:

1. Any access gate through the enclosure shall open away from the swimming pool, and are self-closing with a self-latching device placed no lower than 60" above the ground.
2. A minimum height of 60".
3. A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of 2" or a distance equal to or less than 4" if installed over a solid surface such as concrete.
4. Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than 4" in diameter.
5. 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. Horizontal members shall be spaced at least 45" apart. Chain link may be used provided that openings are not greater than 1-3/4 inches measured horizontally.

Electric Code General Information: applies to outdoor pools, spas and hot tubs.

A. Wet-niche fixtures:

1. An approved fixture is to be roughed in a minimum of 24" below top of forms. (Must be minimum 18" below water at final)
2. Conduit to the fixture housing must be approved brass, bronze or UL labeled non-metallic conduit and cannot contain conductors for anything except the light fixture.
3. Where listed non-metallic conduit is used between the fixture and the junction box, a No. insulated copper conductor shall be installed in the conduit and its termination in the forming shell of the light shall be encapsulated with a listed potting compound.
4. The pool light junction box must be approved with factory installed grounding terminals and located a minimum 8" above the water, 4" above the deck and 4' from the edge of the water. If the junction box is located in the finished walkway around the pool it must be protected. (Under diving board OK)
5. Ensure that both the fixture and forming shell are listed for use with each other.

6. Permitted to use liquid tight flexible non-metallic conduit from the forming shell to the junction box.

B. Bonding:

An insulated or bare 48 common copper conductor is required to connect the metal of the pool deck and steel, wet-niche housing, diving board, ladder, rails, slide, pump, filter, pool cover motors and any metal within 5' horizontally and 12' vertically of the pool (conduit, piping and other metal parts).

C. Underground wiring shall not be permitted under or within 5' of the pool (except needed pool wiring).

D. Grounding:

1. The following equipment (in addition to the 48 bond) is required to be grounded with an insulated copper grounding conductor sized per CEC Table 250-122 but not smaller than #12 installed in the conduit with the circuit conductors: pool lighting fixtures, all electrical equipment associated with the recirculation system, junction boxes, transformer enclosures, G.F.I.C.'s, panel boards and any other electrical equipment within 5' of the pool.
2. The feeder between a sub-panel and the service equipment shall have an insulated equipment grounding conductor sized per CEC Table 250-122 but not smaller than #12 copper installed with the feeder conductors in conduit. In a single dwelling unit the wiring to the service equipment may be in an approved cable assembly within the dwelling unit only.

E. GFCI's

1. Underwater light(s)- the conduit to the light must be sealed at GFCI enclosure.
2. Electrically operated pool covers (also must be minimum 5' from pool edge).
3. 125-volt receptacles are not permitted to be located less than 10' from the pool edge. GFCI protection is required for receptacles located within 20' of pool edge. (One receptacle is required between 10' and 20' of the pool or outdoor spa)
4. Lighting fixtures and lighting outlets less than 5' above and between 5' and 10' from the pool. (Not permitted less than 5' to the pool)
5. All electrical equipment, including cords used with storable pools.
6. Spas and hot tubs: In addition, listed package units may be connected with a cord no longer than 15' and be GFIC protected.

F. Overhead conductors are not permitted above an area within 10' horizontally of the pool, above diving structures, stands, towers or platforms. EXCEPTION: If the lines are UTILITY owned, operated and maintained the following clearances for insulated supply or service cables are as follows: 18' in any direction to water or walkway, 14' 1 any direction to diving boards, stands or towers and to the outside edge of diving boards, stands or towers but in no case less than 10'. Check with local utility company prior to digging of pool.

G. Lights for Outdoor Pools:

1. Lights and fans are permitted 12' above the pool.
2. Existing rigidly attached GFIC protected lighting fixtures and lighting outlets are permitted within 5' of the pool edge when located not less than 5' above the water.
3. GFIC protected lighting fixtures are permitted between 5' and 10' of the water edge are permitted to be below 5' above the water surface.
4. Rigidly attached lighting fixtures (non-GFIC protected) are permitted when located more than 5' from the water's edge and not less than 5' above the water's surface.

H. Disconnecting means for a pool, spa or hot tub must be accessible, within site of and not less than 5' horizontally from the inside edge of the pool, spa or hot tub.

I. Electrically Operated Pool Covers:

1. The electric motors, controllers, and wiring shall be located at least 5' from the inside wall of the pool unless separated from the pool by a wall, cover, or other permanent barrier. Electric motors installed below grade level shall be of the totally enclosed type. All must be GFIC protected.