

## RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS

### SWIMMING POOL, POOL BARRIERS AND SAFETY COVERS

In order to comply with Health and Safety Code Section 115920-115925 (AB 3305), the "Swimming Pool Safety Act," the following policy regarding barriers for swimming pools, spas and hot tubs is established. The requirements are patterned after CBC Section 3109.4.

#### **BARRIER REQUIREMENTS – Outdoor:**

1. Horizontal members LESS than 45 inches apart:
  - a. Where the fence is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal member is LESS than 45 inches, the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence.
  - b. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1- $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in width.
  - c. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1- $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in width.
  - d. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1- $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in width.
2. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches or MORE, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within cutouts shall not exceed 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in width.
3. Chain Link Fencing – Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be 2  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch square unless the fence has slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to not more than 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches.
4. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as lattice fence, the maximum openings formed by the diagonal members shall not be more than 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches.
5. Gates:
  - a. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Section 3109.4.1.7, and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device.
  - b. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool and shall be self-closing and self-latching.
  - c. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate; the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate. The gate and barrier shall have no openings larger than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.
6. Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following conditions shall be met:
  - a. The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in accordance with ASTM F 1346; OR
  - b. 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/or its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2017. The deactivation switch(es) shall be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door; OR
  - c. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the governing body, shall be acceptable as long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by items a or b above.
7. Above Ground Pool Structure – Where an above-ground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps:
  - a. The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access; OR
  - b. The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of Items 1 through 6. When the ladder or steps is secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not all the passage of a 4-inch sphere.

**BARRIER REQUIREMENTS – Indoor:** Walls surrounding an indoor swimming pool shall comply with Section 3109.4.1.8

**BARRIER EXCEPTIONS –** Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346 shall be exempted from the provisions of this code per Section 3109.4.4.2

**ENTRAPMENT PROTECTION FOR SWIMMING POOL AND SPA SUCTION OUTLETS –** Suction outlets shall be designed and installed in accordance with ANSI/APSP-16 per Section 3109.4.4.8

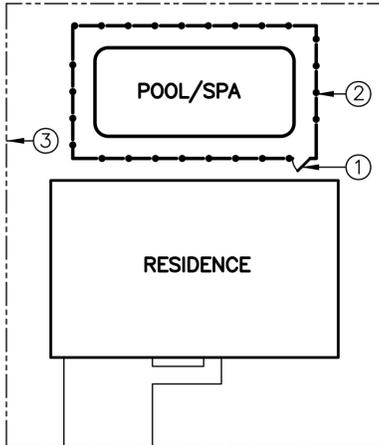


# SWIMMING POOL REQUIRED SAFETY FEATURES

Pools and spas shall be equipped with at least one of the following options.

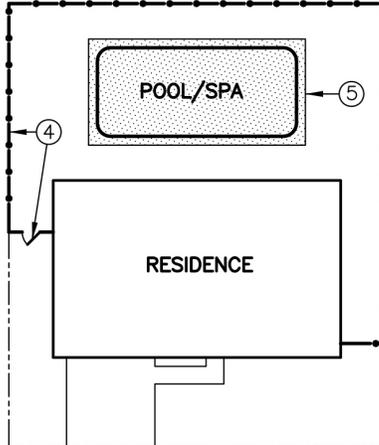
**OPTION 1.**

Fencing pool/spa only.



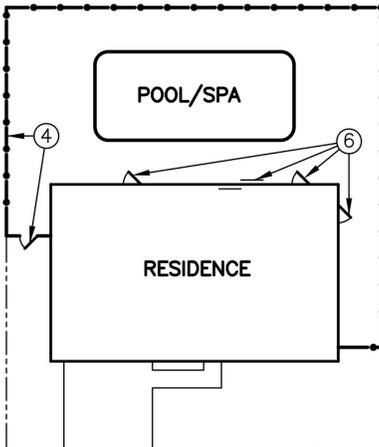
**OPTION 2.**

Pool/spa cover + yard fencing.



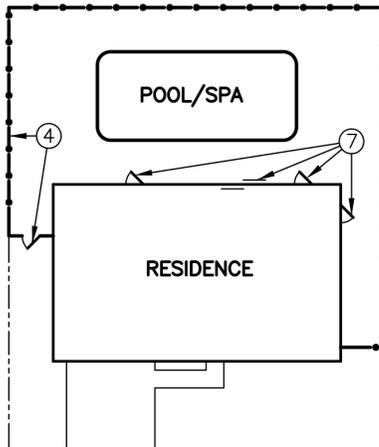
**OPTION 3.**

Exit alarms + yard fencing.



**OPTION 4.**

Self-closing and latching doors + yard fencing.



**NOTES:**

1. Access gates through the enclosure shall open away from the swimming pool, and shall be self-latching with a self latching device placed no lower than 60 inches above ground.
2. "Barrier fence" shall be a minimum of 60 inches high. The maximum vertical clearance from ground to bottom of enclosure shall be two inches. Gaps or voids, if any, not to exceed four inches. The outside surface shall be free of handholds or footholds.
3. No yard fencing required.
4. Yard fencing and access gates to meet City requirements.
5. Approved safety pool cover. (Spas may use approved locking safety covers).
6. All doors shall be equipped with exit alarms. This includes sliding glass and swinging doors and doors from the garage if it allows access to the pool or spa.
7. Self-closing and latching doors (including sliding glass doors) with release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor.

**HOURS:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 (Closed alternate Fridays – see [www.cityofventura.net](http://www.cityofventura.net) for schedule)

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This document is available in alternate formats by calling the City of Ventura Building & Safety Division at (805) 654-7869 or contacting the California Relay Service.