

## **Swimming Pool and Spa Fences and Barriers** *(Conditions of Approval)*

### **Livermore Municipal Code, Section 15.14 Swimming Pools and Spas**

**A)** Pools and spas shall be completely enclosed by a minimum five-foot high (5') fence or other solid barrier that shall enclose the pool, the pool site, or parcel on which the pool is located. The vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure shall be a maximum of two inches (2"). The maximum vertical clearance at the bottom of the barrier may be increased to four inches (4") when the grade is a solid surface such as a concrete deck. When the barrier has horizontal members spaced less than forty-five inches (45") apart, the horizontal members shall be placed on the poolside of the barrier. The outside surface of the barrier shall be free of protrusions, cavities or other physical characteristics that would serve as handholds or footholds that would render the barrier to be easily climbable.

**Note:** For the purpose of this requirement five feet (5') shall be measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the pool or spa.

**B)** Gaps or voids, if any, shall be of a size as not to allow the passage of a one and three fourths inch (1-3/4") diameter sphere.

### **EXCEPTIONS:**

1. When vertical spacing between such openings is forty-five inches (45") or more, the opening size may be increased such that the passage of a four-inch (4") diameter sphere is not allowed.
2. For fencing composed of vertical and horizontal members, the spacing between vertical members may be increased up to four inches (4") when the distance between the tops of horizontal members is forty-five inches (45") or more.
3. Chain link fences used as the barrier, shall not be less than eleven-gauge (11g).

See also.....

- IB-1 Submittal Requirements for Portable Packaged Spa*
- IB-2 Swimming Pools and Spas - California Energy Efficiency Standards*
- CI-7 Interpretation of Deck Relating to Pool and Spa Glazing*

Code Interpretation CI-6 (updated 08/01/08)

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**C)** All gates through the barrier shall swing away from the swimming pool, have a self-closing device and a self-latching device placed no lower than fifty-four inches (54") above the ground. **Note:** When the latching device is installed on the poolside of the barrier: the latching device may be less than fifty-four inches (54") above the ground but no closer than three inches (3") to the top of the gate and, the gate and barrier shall have no openings greater than one half inch (1/2") within eighteen inches (18") of the release mechanism.

**D)** Any gates other than pedestrian access gates, such as vehicle access gates, shall be equipped with lockable hardware or padlocks and remain locked at all times when not in use.

**E)** When the walls of a house are part of the barrier, access to the pool shall be isolated from the home by an enclosure that meets the requirements listed above.

**EXCEPTION:**

When approved by the Permit Center, one of the following may be used in conjunction with an enclosure as listed above:

1. All doors providing direct access from home to the swimming pool shall be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor, **or**
2. An alarm installed on all doors providing direct access to the pool. The alarm shall sound continuously for a minimum of thirty (30) seconds within seven (7) seconds after the door and it's screen, if present, are opened, and be capable of providing a sound pressure level of not less than eighty-five decibels (85 dba.) when measured indoors at ten feet (10'). The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm system shall be equipped with a manual means, such as a touchpad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last no longer than fifteen (15) seconds. The deactivation switch shall be located at least fifty-four inched (54") above the threshold of the door, **or**
3. An approved safety pool cover either manually or power operated that meets all of the performance standards of the ASTM in compliance with Standard F1346-91, **or**
4. Other means of protection may be acceptable so long as the degree of protection afforded not less than that afforded by any of the devices described above.

**F)** A self-contained spa or hot tub equipped with a locking safety cover that complies with ASTM Standard, F 1346-91, and properly labeled, is a substitution for the barrier, fence and gate requirements listed above.

**G)** Where an aboveground 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, **then:**

1. The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access **or**
2. A barrier that meets the requirements as listed above shall surround the ladder or steps.

**H)** When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, a barrier complying with the above shall protect any opening created.