



# BARRIERS FOR SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS

*BUILDING SERVICES*



The following information is based on the requirements for barriers set forth in the 2016 California Building Code and updated to meet legislation passed under Senate Bill No. 442 (Newman) effective January 1, 2018.

Except as provided in Section 115925, 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 of the following seven drowning prevention safety features in addition to an approved barrier meeting the specifications outlined in Item 1 that isolates the pool from the surrounding neighborhood:

1. An enclosure that meets the requirements of Section 115923 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 in subdivision (d) of Section 115921.
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 independently verified by an approved testing laboratory as meeting standards for those features established by the ASTM or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

**In addition to two of the items listed above, a barrier meeting the specifications outlined in Item 1 that isolates the pool from the surrounding neighborhood is also required for a total of three approved drowning prevention safety measures.**

Please contact Building Services with any questions at (925) 314-3330.