



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

411 Main Street - 2nd Floor BUILDING DIVISION
P.O. Box 3420 (530) 879-6700
Chico, CA 95927 Fax (530) 895-4726
http://www.chicoca.gov

City of Chico
Swimming Pool Enclosure
Requirements

Definitions:

Approved Safety Pool Cover: A manual 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.

Enclosure: A fence, wall or combination thereof that isolates a swimming pool from unauthorized access.

Exit alarm: A listed device in accordance with UL 2017 that makes an audible, continuous alarm sound on all doors leading from the dwelling/garage or other structure to the pool enclosure which, when opened or left ajar, permits entry to the pool without any intervening enclosure device. Exit alarms may be battery operated or connected to the electrical wiring of the building

Swimming pool or Pool: Any structure intended for swimming, recreational bathing or other recreational use that will contain water over 18 inches in depth. Swimming pools include inground and above-ground structures and include, but are not limited to, hot tubs, spas, portable spas and non-portable wading pools.

Other terms, words, or phrases not defined shall have their ordinarily accepted meanings within the context with which they are used. Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged, copyright 1986, shall be considered as providing ordinarily accepted meanings.

Pool Enclosure Requirements:

16R.02.020 Chico Municipal Code: Every swimming pool which has a depth of 18 inches or more shall be enclosed by a fence or other structure which is at least five feet in height, cannot be readily climbed, and is equipped with gates which are self-closing and self-latching, or a door with a latch located at least 54 inches above floor level or grade.

An outdoor swimming pool shall be provided with an enclosure installed, inspected and approved prior to plastering or filling of the pool with water. The enclosure shall comply with the following:

1. The top of the enclosure shall be a minimum of five feet in height, measured from the grade outside of the enclosure. The maximum distance from dirt to the bottom of the enclosure shall be two inches, and from paved surfaces shall be a maximum of four inches. When the enclosure has horizontal members, these members shall be spaced a minimum of 48 inches apart. Any design or decorative work on the enclosure that may create a ladder or steps is prohibited or shall be placed on the pool side of the enclosure. In lieu of a site-constructed enclosure, the pool may incorporate mesh pool fencing that meets American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Specifications F0-2286 standards in conjunction with a gate that is self-closing and self-latching and can accommodate a keyed lockable device.
2. Openings in the enclosure shall not allow passage of a 4 inch diameter sphere. When vertical, or a combination of vertical and horizontal members are used for the enclosure the spacing between the horizontal members shall not allow the passage of a 4 inch diameter sphere. The maximum distance from dirt to the bottom of the enclosure shall be two inches, and from paved surfaces shall be a maximum of four inches.
3. Chain link fencing shall be minimum 11 gauge with a maximum horizontal measurement of 1 ³/₄ inches.
4. Pedestrian access gates shall comply with items 1 through 3 above. All pedestrian access gates into the pool enclosure shall have devices for self-closing and self-latching and swing away from the pool. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches above finish grade, (1) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the barrier at least 3 inches below the top of the gate, and (2) the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism. All other gates, other than pedestrian gates, shall be equipped with lockable hardware or padlocks and shall always remain locked when not in use.
5. ALL Pet access doors shall be lockable.
6. In addition to items 1 through 5 above, if the walls of a dwelling/garage or other structure is used as part of the enclosure, and contains doors providing direct access to the pool, at least one of the following shall be provided:
 - a. The pool or spa shall be equipped with an approved safety pool or spa cover that meets all requirements of the ASTM Specifications F1346-91.
 - b. Installation of an exit alarm on all doors with direct access to the pool enclosure. The alarm shall sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds, within seven seconds after the door has been opened. The alarm shall be capable of providing a sound pressure level of not less than 85 dBA when measured indoors at 10 feet from the alarm. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm shall be equipped with a manual means to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last no longer than 15 seconds, and the switch shall be located a minimum of 54 inches above the threshold of the door. The exit alarm may cause either an alarm noise or a verbal warning such as repeated notification that “The door to the pool is open.”

- c. 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 door providing direct access to the swimming pool or spa.
 - d. Swimming pool alarms that, when placed in pools, will sound upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. Swimming pool alarm shall sound upon detection at swimming pool alarm device and at a remote receiver installed inside of house where it will most likely be heard according to manufacturer's installation instruction. These pool alarms shall meet and be independently certified to the ASTM Standard F2208 "Standards Specification for Pool Alarms" which includes surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser, and infrared type alarms. For the purposes of Item 5 d, "swimming pool alarms" shall not include swimming protection alarm devices designed for individual use, such as an alarm attached to a child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water.
7. Where an above-ground pool structure is used as a barrier or when the barrier is installed on top of the pool structure and means of access is the use of a ladder or steps, then the ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access to the pool, or a barrier shall be installed around the ladder and shall meet the requirements of items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.
8. 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 above, and have been independently verified by an approved testing laboratory by the ASTM or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), may be approved by the Building Official.