

## \*\*\*SWIMMING POOL / SPA / HOTTUB - INSTALLATION GUIDELINES\*\*\*

### ***City of Amesbury Code Requirements***

In addition to the requirements of the Mass. State Building Code § 421.0, the following is required under the Amesbury Zoning By-laws:

- All pools must be in the rear yard and must be set back a minimum of five (5) feet from side and rear lot lines. This includes the apron, patio or deck.
- A deck for an above-ground pool exceeding 192 sq. ft. must meet lot line setbacks required in the zoning district in which the pool is located.

### ***BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED:***

- Pools 24" or greater in depth;
- Pools with a surface area 250 sq. ft. or greater;
- Pools equipped with a permanent water recirculating system;
- Pools involving structural materials;
- HOTTUBS REQUIRE A BUILDING PERMIT

### ***DOCUMENTATION NEEDED WITH YOUR BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION:***

Barrier and gate detail  
Diving board detail  
Step or ladder detail  
Water heating (type of fuel)  
Pool location relative to septic system, house and other structures and property lines  
Barrier location  
Mechanical and electrical equipment  
Potable water source

***\*\* Please note: Per the Mass. State Building Code, soft-side pools require a building permit and the installation of a fence and ladder enclosure.***

### ***Pool Egress:***

At least one means of egress shall be provided from private pools. Steps shall be slip resistant with handrails on both sides where there are more than four (4) steps or where the steps extend the full width of the side or end of pool (421.5.5)

### ***Drainage System:***

Pools shall be so equipped to be emptied completely of water and discharge shall be designed in a manner that will not create a nuisance to adjoining property (421.6.2)

---

## ***UNDERSTANDING BARRIERS 780 CMR 421.10***

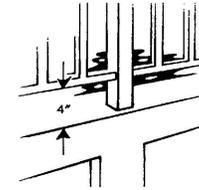
### ***421.10 Enclosures for private swimming pools, spas and hot tubs:***

In lieu of any zoning laws or ordinances to the contrary, private swimming pools, spas and hottubs shall be enclosed in accordance with 730 CMR 421.10.1 through 421.10.4, or by other approved barriers.

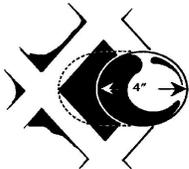
421.10.1 Outdoor private swimming pool:

An outdoor private swimming pool, including and in-ground, above-ground, hottub or spa shall be provided with a barrier which shall comply with the following:

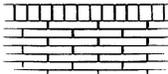
1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 48" above finished ground level measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between finished ground level and the barrier shall be 2" measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above finished ground level, such as an in-ground pool, the barrier shall be at finished ground level, such as the pool structure, or shall be mounted on top of the pool structure. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4".



2. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4" diameter sphere.

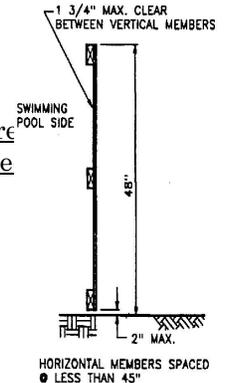
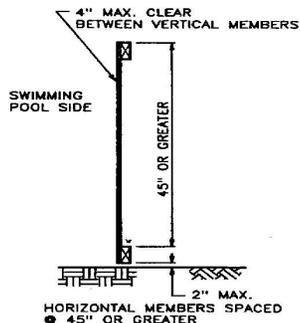


3. Solid barriers shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.

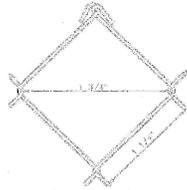


4. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members are the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4". Decorative cutouts shall not exceed 1 3/4" in width.

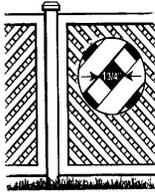
5. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45" or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4". Decorative cutouts shall not exceed 1 3/4" in width.



6. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be 1 ¼” square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or bottom which reduce the openings to not more than 1 ¾”.

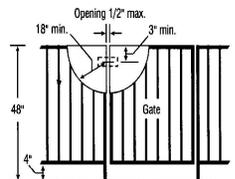
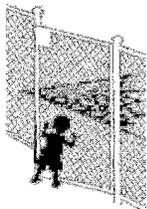


7. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members such as lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall not be more than 1 ¾”.



8. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of 780 CMR 421.10.1, Items 1 through 7, and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outwards away from the pool and shall be self closing and have a self latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54” from the bottom of the gate:

- (a) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3” below the top of the gate; and  
 (b) the gate and barrier shall not have an opening greater than 2” within 18” of the release mechanism.



9. Where the wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following shall apply:

- 9.1 All doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm that produces an audible warning when the door and screen, if present, are opened. The audible warning shall commence not more than 7 seconds after the door and screen door, if present, are opened and shall sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds. The alarm shall have a minimum sound pressure rating of 85 dBA at 10’ and the sound of the alarm shall be distinctive from other household sounds such as telephones, smoke alarms or door bells. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm shall be equipped with manual means such as touch pads or switches to deactivate temporarily the alarm for a single opening from either direction. Such deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds. The deactivation touch pads or switches shall be located at least 54” above the threshold door.



9.2 The pool shall be equipped with an approved power safety cover. ***“Approved power safety cover means a power operated safety pool cover that Meets all the performance standards of ASTM F1346-91 and has a permanent label affixed to the cover or supporting product documentation verifying compliance.”***

10. 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 fixed or removable ladder or steps, the ladder shall be surround by a barrier that meets the requirements of 780 CMR 421.10.1, Items 1 through 9. A removable ladder shall not constitute an acceptable alternative to enclosure requirements.



421.10.2 Indoor private swimming pool:

All walls surrounding an indoor private swimming pool shall comply with 780 CMR 421.10.1, Item 9.

421.10.3 Prohibited locations:

Barriers shall be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers.

421.10.4 Exemptions:

The following is exempt from the provisions of 780 CMR 421.1.

- ❖ A spa or hottub with an approved safety cover;
- ❖ Fixtures that are drained after each use.

**PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT THE FILTER IS TO BE PLACED AT LEAST FIVE FEET (5') MINIMUM FROM THE POOL.**