



REGULATIONS GOVERNING  
**POOL & SPA BARRIERS**

PINAL COUNTY BUILDING SAFETY DEPARTMENT  
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INFORMATION  
BULLETIN

**010**

16May02

Pinal County shares the same concerns as other counties and the State of Arizona when it comes to pool safety. Copies of our Pool Safety Regulations are available upon request from any of our offices. This bulletin is offered as a general, more simplified guideline to assist members of the public and does not contain all the details contained in the regulation.

### **SWIMMING POOL PERIMETER BARRIER**

A swimming pool must be provided with a barrier or fence that is installed, inspected and approved before final plastering or filling the pool with water.

The barrier must comply with the following:

1. The top must be at least 60 inches above finished grade measured on the outside of the barrier. Where fencing material is used, like wrought iron or chain link, there shall be a maximum of 2" between the bottom of the barrier and the finished grade unless the grade is a solid surface such as a concrete deck in which case the space may be increased to 4".. If the design is such that it creates a foothold or ladder effect, allowing a child to easily climb the fence (e.g.- block with wrought iron), then it must be constructed so that there are no horizontal members closer together than 45".

Spas which meet **all** of the following criteria may use an approved safety cover and need not comply with the barrier described above.

- (1.) Spa must be no wider than 8' at the widest part, and;
- (2.) Cover must be latchable by use of a tool or other device that causes the spa to be reasonably inaccessible to children, and;
- (3.) Cover must be able to support 100 lbs. static load, and;
- (4.) Cover must be designed to prevent the passage of a 4" sphere into the water when in the closed position.

2. Openings in the barrier, when using chain link fencing, shall not allow the passage of a sphere 1 3/4" in diameter and the fencing shall not be less than 11 gage.

3. Gates shall comply with the above requirements and pedestrian gates shall be self-closing and self-latching. When the latch is less than 54" above the bottom of the

gate, the latching mechanism shall be located on the pool side no less than 3" below the gate top and there shall not be an opening larger than 1/2" within 18" of the release mechanism. Pedestrian gates must swing away from the pool. All other gates shall be equipped with lockable hardware or padlocks and shall be locked at all times when not in use.

4. Where telephone service is utilized at the residence, a telephone must be installed where it will allow a direct unobstructed view of the pool.

### **INTERMEDIATE BARRIER**

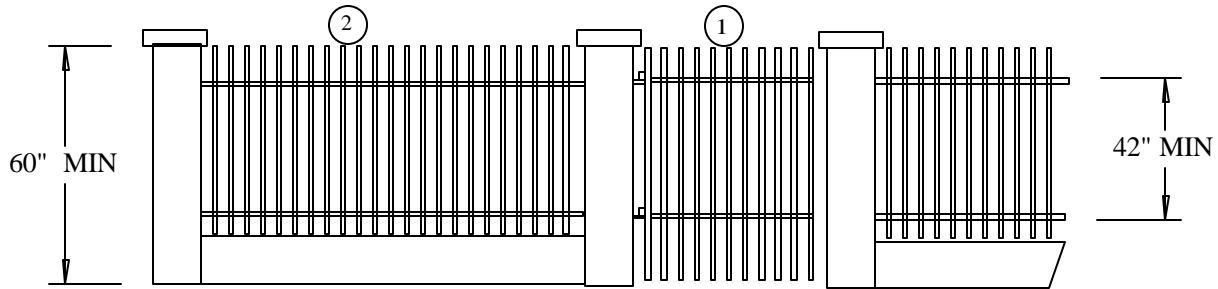
1. Where a wall of the house is used for part of the perimeter barrier and contains doors that open directly to the pool area, a barrier which meets the requirements of a perimeter barrier must be installed, except when approved by the Building Official, one of the following may be used:

- (1). The height of the separation or intermediate barrier need only be 48" and must not obstruct the view of the pool.
- (2). Self-closing and self-latching devices installed on all doors with direct access to the pool with release located a minimum of 54" above the floor.
- (3). An alarm installed on all doors with direct access to the pool.

2. Where an aboveground pool structure is used as an approved barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and a means of access is a ladder or steps, then the ladder or steps must be capable of being locked or removed to prevent access to the pool. If the ladder or steps cannot be removed, then they must be surrounded by a perimeter barrier.

3. An indoor pool protection must meet the requirements of Item 1 of this section.

### PERIMETER BARRIER



○ NOTES:

1. GATE MUST MEET SAME HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS AS PERIMETER BARRIER AND MUST SWING AWAY FROM THE POOL. GATE MUST BE SELF CLOSING AND SELF LATCHING. THE LATCH MUST BE AT LEAST 54" ABOVE GRADE LEVEL.
2. VERTICAL BARRIER MEMBERS MUST BE SPACED SO AS TO NOT ALLOW A 4" BALL TO PASS BETWEEN THEM. ANY HORIZONTAL MEMBERS MUST BE A MINIMUM OF 45" APART.

INTERMEDIATE BARRIER:

3. APPROVED FENCING AT LEAST 48" HIGH WITH AN UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW OF POOL, GATE THAT SWINGS AWAY FROM THE POOL AND IS AT LEAST 48" HIGH, IS SELF CLOSING; OR,
4. SELF CLOSING AND SELF LATCHING DOORS WITH LATCH AT LEAST 54" ABOVE FLOOR; OR,
5. ALARM AS DESCRIBED IN THE PINAL COUNTY ORDINANCE

### SITE PLAN

