



SKIPPACK TOWNSHIP

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Skippack Township would like to remind its residents of important rules regarding backyard swimming pools that help protect against drowning or other serious injury. In lieu of recent tragedies in surrounding Townships, we ask that all pool owners receive the necessary permits and/or equipment to meet our Township Code. As the hottest days of the year approach, we understand the desire to cool off, we just ask that you do so in a safe, proper and legal way.

1. *Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches deep is considered by code to be a swimming pool, and thus must meet all swimming pool requirements including permits. Each swimming pool, including an in-ground, above-ground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa shall be surrounded by a barrier which shall comply with the following:*

- A. The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches above *grade* measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an above-ground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure, or 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 inches.
- B. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter sphere.
- C. Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as masonry of stone wall, shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.
- D. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2 1/4 inch square unless the fence has slats fastened at the top of the bottom which reduce the openings to not more than 1 3/4 inches.
- E. Access gates should open outward 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.

2. *Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following conditions shall be met*

- A. The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F 1346; or
- B. Doors with direct access through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened.

3. *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 a ladder or steps:*

- A. The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access; or
- B. The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of Section AG105.2, Items 1 through 9. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, and opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.

Please feel free to contact Skippack Township at any time regarding questions or clarifications of these guidelines.