

# Western Washtenaw Construction Authority

## Building and Trade Permits

### Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs Codes

Any Structure that contains water over 24 inches in depth and which is used or intended to be used for swimming or recreational bathing in single family homes. This includes above ground pools, in ground pools, hot tubs and spas, hereafter referred as pools.

1. **Permits:** All pools will require a permit prior to installation. A completed application, health dept. approval, zoning approval and construction documents that would include size, shape, and type of construction are necessary. Building permits covers the installation of the pool. If the pool equipment is permanently “hard wired” into the electrical system an electrical permit is required. If there is a water heater a mechanical permit will be required. If connections to household water are made a plumbing permit is required. A Certificate of Use and Occupancy shall be issued when complete. Failure to complete the permit may result in legal action.

#### **Plan requirements are as follows:**

- a. Cross Sections – In ground pools and above ground pools with deep ends require a cross section drawing showing a profile of the pool. Diving boards shall be described and dimensioned (board height 1 foot and 8 inches or half a meter) Details of the construction (footings, wall support, etc.) are required.
  - b. Health Review – Required if pool is located on property with septic tank.
  - c. Zoning Approval Site Plan – Showing home, pool location, septic system and well, property lines, enclosures and other safety devices. (Pull down ladders are not approved as safety device)
2. **Inspections:**
    - a. Footing inspection shall take place once excavation has taken place. For above ground pools all sod and vegetative material shall be removed. Hole excavated, ready for concrete or pool erection. Suspect soils with low bearing capacity will be disapproved.
    - b. Final building takes place after all work is complete including the enclosure. Minimum of 4 feet high enclosure, gate, latch and or alarms. See 2003 Michigan Residential Code – Appendix G.
    - c. Mechanical – If pool is heated with any system other than solar heating, mechanical permit and inspection required. Inspector shall observe all underground piping, gas piping (including pressure test) and mechanical equipment installation.
    - d. Electrical – Required if any electrical is permanently connected to the household wiring service. Inspector shall observe all underground electrical installations including bonding, service connections, lighting, outlets, or other devices before being covered. Final electrical inspection will take place when energized.
    - e. Plumbing – Required if connected to household water services

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### 3. Enclosures: See section 421.10.1

- a. All pool enclosures shall have a minimum height of 48 inches to the top of the barrier. Maximum openings shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch sphere. The bottom of the barrier shall be within 2 inches of the ground. It shall not create a ladder effect.
- b. Chain link shall have a mesh size not greater than 1 ¼ inches.
- c. Gates: Pedestrian gates shall open outward, be self-closing, self-latching, and be capable of locking. The release mechanism, when located less than 54 inches must be located at least 3 inches below the top of the gate, on the pool side of the gate, and any openings within 18 inches of the latch shall be less than ½ inch.
- d. Where the wall of a dwelling unit serves as part of the barrier and contains a door that provides direct access to the pool, one of the following shall apply:
  1. An alarm shall sound when the door is opened.
  2. Doors having access to the pool shall have self-closing, self-latching devices not less than 54 inches above the finish floor on the inside. Swinging doors shall open away from the pool area.
  3. The pool may be installed with an approved power safety cover

For the protection of the general public, all yards containing swimming pools shall be completely enclosed by a fence not less than 4 feet in height. The gates shall be of a self-closing and latching type, with the latch on the inside of the gate, not readily available for children to open. Gates shall be capable of being securely locked when the pool is not in use for extended periods. However if the entire premises of the residence is enclosed, or if the pool wall is 4 feet in height or higher, with retractable steps and a self-locking top, then this provision may be waived by the building inspector upon inspection and approval.

All electrical installations or wiring in connection with swimming pools shall conform to the provision of the National Electrical Code. If service drops conductors of (or) other utility wires cross under or over a proposed pool area, the applicant shall make satisfactory arrangements with the utility involved for the relocation thereof before a permit shall be issued for the construction of a swimming pool.

No portion of a swimming pool or associated structure shall be permitted to encroach upon any easement or right-of-way which has been granted for public utility use. (Ord. No. 96-144, 3-5-96)

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