

ABOVE GROUND SWIMMING POOLS

This information is based on the 2015 International Residential Code, Section N1103.10, Chapter 42. This list is only a summary of the code.

1. The pool wall shall be a minimum of 48 inches high, measured from the finished grade to the top of the pool wall.
2. Where there is an adjacent hill or sloping ground toward the pool, the pool shall be a minimum of 48 inches away (measured from the top edge of the pool) or provide a 48-inch high code-compliant barrier (see A through C below for barrier requirements).
3. The pool equipment must be placed 48 inches from the pool wall to prevent the equipment from being used for climbing.
4. Barriers shall be located to prohibit permanent structures, equipment, or similar objects from being used for climbing.
5. The ladder shall be capable of being secured, locked, or removed to prevent access **OR** provide a 48-inch high barrier surrounding the ladder or steps that complies with the following:
 - a. The barrier may not be located more than 2 inches above the grade.
 - b. If the distance between the horizontal rails is less than 45 inches, the spacing between vertical rails shall not exceed 1³/₄ inch.
 - c. If the distance between the horizontal rails is more than 45 inches, the spacing between vertical rails shall not exceed 4 inches.
 - d. The gate shall swing outward (away) from the pool.
 - e. The gate shall be self-closing and self-latching.
 - f. The gate latch shall be located at least 54 inches high, measured from the bottom of the gate to the latch **OR** the gate latch shall be located on the pool side (inside) of the gate, a minimum of 3 inches below the top of the gate, and there shall be no opening larger than a half inch within 18 inches of the latch.
 - g. If the pool barrier is part of one or all of the following — house wall, garage wall, shed wall or similar structure — and there are access doors in the barrier walls, a door alarm is required to be mounted on the side of the door or screen door opposite the pool. The deactivation button may not be less than 54 inches above the floor. The alarm is required to be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2017.
6. Lighting fixtures shall not be placed over the pool or within 5 feet horizontally of the pool.
7. A convenience receptacle is required not less than 6 feet and no more than 20 feet from the wall of the pool. The receptacle shall be GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) protected, and the receptacle shall be covered with an in-use cover.
8. The pool pump receptacle is required to be 20-amp twist lock, GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) protected, and the receptacle shall be covered with an in-use cover.
9. The pool pump receptacle shall be placed at least 6 feet away from the pool but no greater than 10 feet.

10. The pool pump cord may not exceed 3 feet in length.
11. The conduit for the pool pump and the convenience receptacle shall be buried a minimum of 18 inches below finished grade (20-inch deep trench).
12. All receptacles shall be mounted on a structural wall, post usually 4'x4' pressure treated, or equal.
13. All non-twist lock receptacles shall be listed weather-resistant type and tamper-resistant.
14. The pool pump receptacle feed conductors shall be individual conductors installed in listed PVC or metal conduit. The conductors shall be black/white/green, 12 AWG (American wire gauge) copper wire, and the conductor insulation type shall be THHN/THWN.
15. The pool pump circuit is required to be on a dedicated circuit. The convenience receptacle may NOT be fed off the pool pump circuit.
16. The pool pump shall be controlled with a time clock.
17. The pool motor needs to be bonded to pool with an 8 AWG solid copper wire.
18. The pool pump must be listed and labeled for swimming pool use.
19. If the ladder is metal, it must be bonded to the pool.
20. The pool water is required to be intentionally bonded to the bonding ring by a means of a conductive surface area not less than 9 square inches installed in contact with the pool water. There are products available on the market to help comply with this requirement. The use of a stainless steel hose fitting or a plate in contact with the pool water are some of the methods available on the market.
21. All metal within 5 feet of the inside wall of the pool shall be bonded to the pool with an 8 AWG solid copper wire.
22. An 8 AWG solid bare copper wire shall be installed around the perimeter of the pool no less than 18 inches and no more than 24 inches from the wall of the pool. The wire shall be buried 4 to 6 inches deep. The wire shall be connected to the pool (with listed connectors) at 4 locations equally spaced.
23. Bonding connectors and machine screws or nut and bolts shall be stainless steel, brass, copper, or copper alloy. Connectors shall be listed for direct burial. Sheet metal screws are NOT permitted for bonding.
24. Pool heaters shall be equipped with a readily accessible on/off switch. Gas heaters shall not have continuously burning pilot lights.
25. Heated pools shall be equipped with a vapor retardant pool cover on or at the water surface. Pools heated to more than 90°F (32°C) shall have a pool cover with a minimum insulation value of R-12.
26. Existing overhead wires shall be a minimum of 10 feet away from the pool wall, and any underground wires shall be 5 feet away from the pool wall. (All measurements are made at level line.)