

# Swimming Pools & Spas



**City Of Mesa**

**Development &  
Sustainability**

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**480-644-4273**

Hopping into your pool is one of the most refreshing things you can do on hot summer day! But, keeping your pool safe requires safety measures and proper construction.

## **GENERAL**

The following requirements apply to above ground, in ground and fixed-in-place swimming pools, wading pools, spas, hot tubs and fountains 18" or greater in depth.

## **LOCATIONS**

A pool shall not be located in the required front yard, required landscaped areas, or in any public utility easements. The water's edge shall not be closer than 4 feet from any property lines.

## **ELECTRIC**

Exterior electrical outlets must be a minimum of ten (10) feet from the water's edge and protected by GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter).

Minimum height of Overhead Electrical Conductors is 22.5 feet above the water surface.

## **WINDOWS**

Windows within five (5) feet of the water's edge must be safety glazed.

## **BARRIERS ENCLOSURES**

All pools must be enclosed by a barrier. The barrier may be the walls of a building, a fence or a combination of both as described below.

## **BARRIER HEIGHT AND CLEARANCES**

The top of the barrier shall be at least 5 feet above grade measured on the side of the barrier that 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 that faces away from the swimming pool.

Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an aboveground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure, or mounted on the 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.

Openings: Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter sphere.

Solid Barrier Surfaces: Solid barriers which do not have openings shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.

Closely Spaced Horizontal Members: No climbable openings, handholds, or footholds are to be on the exterior side. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches, the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1.75 inches in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical

members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75 inches in width.

Widely Spaced Horizontal Members: No climbable openings, handholds, or footholds are to be on the exterior side. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75 inches in width.

Chain Link Dimensions: Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2.25 inch square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to no more than 1.75 inches.

Diagonal Members: Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be no more than 1.75 inches.

## **GATES**

Pedestrian access gates 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 inches from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate, and the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than 0.5 inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism. All gates must open away from the pool area.

## DWELLING WALL AS A BARRIER

When the wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following shall be met.

1. All doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with one of the following:
  - a. A self-closing and self-latching device with the handle a minimum of fifty-four (54) inches above the floor.
  - b. An alarm which produces an audible warning when the door is opened and is accordance with UL 2017. The alarm shall activate within 7 seconds and sound continuously for 30 seconds. The alarm **shall not have an on/off switch**. The alarm may have a by-pass which temporarily deactivates the alarm for a single opening. This deactivation shall not last longer than 15 seconds. This by-pass switch/button must be mounted a minimum of 54" above the threshold of the door.
  - c. **THE GARAGE SERVICE DOOR THAT LEADS TO THE POOL AREA. GARAGE SERVICE DOORS MUST BE SELF-CLOSING & WITH A SELF-LATCHING DEVICE MOUNTED A MINIMUM OF 54" ABOVE THE THRESHOLD OF THE DOOR.**
  - d. Pet doors are not allowed in the barrier wall, unless the opening will not allow a 4 inch diameter sphere to pass through.
2. The pool shall have a motorized safety pool cover installed, which requires the operation of a key switch which meets the American Society of Testing and Materials Emergency Standards 1346, and which does not require manual operation other than

the use of the key switch that is located at least fifty-four (54) inches above grade.

## Barriers for Above Ground Pools

Above ground pools, spas, and hot tubs must comply with the barrier requirements listed.

Exceptions:

1. Above ground spas and hot tubs may be equipped with a hard safety cover that can be latched or locked.
2. Above ground pools, spas, and hot tubs with non-climbable walls at least five (5) feet in height where access is provided by a ladder or steps then one of the following must be met.
  - 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 listed in this pamphlet.

## Prohibited Barrier Locations

Barriers shall be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers. Any boulders, grottos and man-made structures must be a minimum of 4' from the non-poolside of the barrier.

**POOL DRAINAGE** (If there is no room for this statement, don't put it in brochure)  
The City of Mesa does not allow the drainage of swimming pools/spas into the public streets. You have two options to drain the pool:  
\* Irrigate your rear and front yards; or  
\* Locate the sewer cleanout on the property and drain into the cleanout.

This brochure is strictly for informational purposes only. For additional information regarding swimming pools and spas, please contact one of the Development Information Specialists at (480) 644-4BSD (4273).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- **Mesa Zoning Ordinance**
- **2006 International Residential Code, including Appendix G, with all City of Mesa Amendments**

<http://mesaaz.gov/business/development-sustainability>

or contact Development Services staff at  
**(480) 644-4273**