

Swimming Pools & Spas



City Of Mesa
**Development &
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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 six (6) 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 tempered and identified as such.

BARRIER ENCLOSURES

All pools must be enclosed by a barrier. Compliance can be met by one of the following methods.

BARRIER AROUND THE POOL

The top of the barrier shall not be less than 5 feet above grade measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool.

The barrier shall not be closer than 4 feet to a property line.

The vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall not exceed 2 inches for grade surfaces that are not solid, such as grass or gravel measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool.

The vertical clearance between a surface below the barrier to a solid surface, such as concrete, and the bottom of the required barrier shall not exceed 4 inches.

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

Solid barriers that do not have openings shall not have indentations or protrusions that could form handholds or footholds.

A mesh fence barrier must be installed per the manufacturer's installation instructions and; the bottom of the mesh fence shall not be more than 1" above the deck; the maximum vertical clearance from the bottom of the mesh fence and the solid surface shall not permit the fence to be lifted more than 4" from grade or under the panel; the attachment device shall attach each barrier section at a height not lower than 45" above grade; and patio deck sleeves such as vertical post receptacles that are placed inside the patio surface shall be of a nonconductive material.

When the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance

between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45", the horizontal members shall be located on the pool/spa side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1 3/4" in width.

Chain link fencing cannot have openings greater than 1 3/4" and the mesh shall not be less than 11 wire gauge.

Barriers composed of diagonal members shall not have openings formed by the diagonal members greater than 1 3/4" and the angle of the diagonal members shall not be greater than 45 degrees from the vertical.

Barriers must be a minimum of 36" from any permanent structure or equipment that could be used to climb the barrier.

The pool/spa side of the barrier shall not be less than 20 inches from the water's edge.

GATES

Gates within the barrier shall comply with the following:

1. Must open outward away from the pool,
2. Shall be self-closing and self-latching,
3. Shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device,
4. Gates not intended for pedestrian use shall remain locked,
5. Double/multiple gates shall have not fewer than one leaf secured with a self-closing device. The gate and the barrier shall not have openings greater than 1/2" within 18 inches of the latch release mechanism,
6. Latches less than 54 inches from grade shall be located on the pool/spa side of the gate and not less than 3 inches below the top of the gate and the gate/barrier shall not have openings greater than 1/2" within 18 inches of the release mechanism.

DWELLING WALL AS A BARRIER

Where a wall of a dwelling or structure serves as part of the barrier and where doors and/or windows provide direct access to the pool/spa through that wall, the following shall be required.

Operable windows having a sill height of less than 48" above the indoor finished floor and doors shall have an alarm that produces an audible warning when the window, door or their screens are opened. The alarm shall be listed and labeled as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017. The audible alarm shall activate within 7 seconds and sound continuously for 30 seconds after the window, door and/or screen are opened and be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal household activities. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm system shall be equipped with a manual means, such as touch pad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch(es) shall be located at least 54" above the threshold of the door. The alarm shall not have an on/off switch.

Multi panel sliding doors or walls shall meet the requirements of ISPSC 305.4 or shall be secured in place by a permanent fastening method that requires a tool to remove. If a sliding glass door or panel is the only door to the pool area it shall meet the requirements of ISPSC 305.4.2.

The garage service door that leads to the pool area must be self-closing & with a self-latching device mounted a minimum of 54" above the threshold of the door.

Pet doors are not allowed in the barrier wall, unless the opening will not allow a 4-inch diameter sphere to pass through.

SAFETY COVERS

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 F1346, 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 the finished floor.

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.

POOL DRAINAGE

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**
- **2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code & the 2017 National Electric Code with all City of Mesa Amendments**

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