

2013 California Residential Code  
Appendix G

Barriers and Information For  
Residential Swimming Pools,  
Spas and Hot Tubs

◆ **Definitions.** For the purpose of this section: **Barrier** is a fence, wall, building wall or combination thereof that completely surrounds the swimming pool and obstructs access to the swimming pool.

**Private Swimming Pool,** means a swimming pool located on the grounds of a single-family home.

**Separation Fence** is a barrier that separates all doors of a dwelling unit with direct access to a swimming pool from the swimming pool.

**Spa, Self-contained,** is a continuous-duty appliance in which all control, water-heating and water-circulating equipment is an integral part of the product, located entirely under the spa skirt. A self-contained spa is intended for recreational bathing and contains water over 24 inches (610 mm) deep.

**Swimming Pool** is any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches (610 mm) deep. This includes in-ground, aboveground and on-ground swimming pools, and fixed-in-place wading pools.

**Swimming Pool, Indoor,** is a swimming pool that is totally contained within a residential structure and surrounded on all four sides by walls of said structure.

**Swimming Pool, Outdoor,** is any swimming pool that is not an indoor pool.

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Barrier - Requirements

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◆ **AG105.2 Residential Swimming Pool.** An outdoor swimming pool shall comply with following:

**Exception:** A swimming pool with a power safety cover or a spa with a safety cover complying with ASTM F1346.

1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 60 inches (1,530 mm) 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 (51 mm) measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, the barrier is authorized to be at ground level or mounted on top of the pool structure, and the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches (102 mm)
2. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.
3. Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as masonry or stone wall, shall not contain indentions or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances
4. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and verticals members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches (1143 mm), the horizontal member shall be located on the pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical

members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1¾ inches (44 mm).

5. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and verticals members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches (1143 mm) or more spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1¾ inches (44 mm).
6. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 21/2 inch (57 mm) square unless the fence has slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduces the openings to not more than 13/4 inches (44 mm).
7. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members such as lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall not be more than 1 ¾ inches (44 mm).
8. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Section AG105.2, Items 1 through 7, and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall 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. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism and opening shall comply with the following:
  - 8.1 The release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate.
  - 8.2 The gate and barrier shall have no opening larger than ½ inch (121.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism.

9. Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following conditions shall be met:
  - 9.1 The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F 1346; or
  - 9.2 Doors with direct access to the pool 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. The alarm shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2017. The deactivation switch(es) shall be located at least 54 inches (1372 mm) above the threshold of the door; or
  - 9.3 Other means of protection, such as self closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the governing body, shall be acceptable as long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Item 9.1 or 9.2 described above.
10. 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:
  - 10.1 The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access; or
  - 10.2 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, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter (102 mm) sphere.

**AG105.3 Indoor swimming pool.** Walls surrounding an indoor pool shall comply with Section AG105.2, Item 9.

**AG105.4 Prohibited locations.** Barriers shall be located to prohibit permanent structures,

equipment or similar objects from being used to climb them.

**AG105.5 Barrier exceptions.** Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346 shall be exempt from the provisions of this appendix.

**Entrapment Protection for Swimming Pool and Spa Suction Outlets.**

**AG106.1 General.** Suction outlets shall be designed and installed in accordance with ANSI/APSP-7.

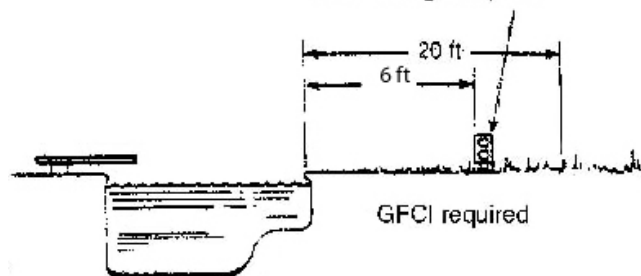
**Electrical Requirements for Swimming Pool and Spa**

(See Article 680 of the 2013 CEC for all requirements)

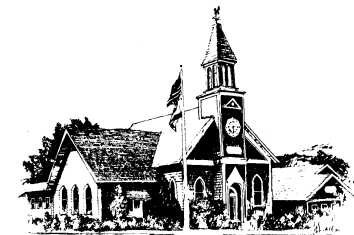
**680.22 CEC** Minimum of one 15- or 20- amp GFI receptacle shall be installed not closer than 6 feet nor farther away than 20 feet from inside wall of the pool. This receptacle cannot be located more than 6 feet 6 inches above the floor, platform or grade level serving the pool or spa.

**680.30 CEC** Above ground pools with cord-connected pool filter pumps shall be GFI protected.

Required by Section 680.22 CEC for dwelling-unit pools



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