



RUTHERFORD COUNTY BUILDING CODES DEPARTMENT

Creating a Sustainable Future Through Building Standards and Safety

BARRIER REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS

Rutherford County requires all outdoor, indoor, above-ground and in-ground swimming pools to be surrounded by a barrier that complies with the 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code.

Barrier Height and Clearances

1. The top of the barrier shall be a minimum of 48" above grade where measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the pool. Such height shall be maintained around the entire perimeter of the barrier and for a distance of 3' horizontally from the outside of the barrier.
2. The vertical clearance between grade, such as grass or mulch, and the bottom of the barrier shall not exceed 2".
3. The vertical clearance between a solid surface, such as concrete, and the bottom of the barrier shall not exceed 4".
4. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the vertical clearance between the top of the pool and the bottom of the barrier shall not exceed 4".

Pool Wall as the Barrier (above-ground only)

If the pool wall is to be utilized as the barrier it shall be no less than 48" from finished grade to top of the pool wall for the entire perimeter of the pool. This measurement will be taken after the desired topsoil has been backfilled back around the pool. Please ensure this is complete before calling for a Final Inspection. Upon completion of setup, the installers will instruct you to start filling the pool with water. You may fill the pool up to 24" to complete the backfilling around the pool. If it appears that the backfilling will extend above 24" please call your inspector for instructions as you will likely be required to provide an alternative barrier for the pool. The ladder should not be installed, and the pool may **NOT** be filled more than 24" and may **NOT** be used without first requesting and receiving a Final Inspection by this office.

Solid Barrier Surfaces

Solid barriers that do not have openings shall not contain indentations or protrusions that form handholds and footholds, except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.

Chain Link Fence as a Barrier

The maximum opening formed by a chain link fence shall be no more than 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Where the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top and bottom that reduce the openings, such openings shall be no more than 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

Wood Privacy Fence as a Barrier

Where 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 side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within the vertical members, the interior width of the cutouts shall not exceed 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

Wrought Iron Fence as a Barrier

Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45" or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4".

Barrier composed of Diagonal Members

Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall not be greater than 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". The angle of the diagonal members shall not be more than 45°.

Structure Wall as a Barrier

Where a wall of a dwelling or structure serves as part of the barrier and one or more doors or windows provide direct access through that wall, one of the following will be required:

1. Operable windows with a sill height of less than 48" above the indoor finished floor and all doors entering directly into the pool area shall have an alarm that produces an audible warning when the window or door are opened. The alarm shall be *listed and labeled* as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017.
2. A safety cover that is *listed and labeled* in accordance with ASTM F1346 is installed on the pool.

Gates

Access gates shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian gates shall open outward away from the pool, shall be self-closing and shall have a self-latching device.

Double gates – One side of the double gate must be secured in place; the adjacent gate shall be secured with a self-latching device.

The gate shall not have openings larger than $\frac{1}{2}$ " within 18" of the latch release mechanism.

Latches – where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54" from grade, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate not less than 3" below the top of the gate. The gate shall not have any openings greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ " within 18" of the release mechanism.

Clear Zone from Barrier

There shall be a clear zone a minimum of 3' between the exterior of the barrier and any permanent structures or equipment such as pumps, filters and heaters that can be used to climb the barrier.

Poolside Barrier Setbacks

The poolside of the barrier shall be a minimum of 20" from the water's edge.

NOTE – THE SWIMMING POOL MAY NOT BE USED UNTIL A FINAL INSPECTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED