

# SWIMMING POOLS/HOT TUBS (RESIDENTIAL)



## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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This handout is intended only as a guide and is based in part on the Big Lake City ordinances and good building practice. While every attempt has been made to insure the correctness of this handout, no guarantees are made to its accuracy or completeness. Responsibility for compliance with applicable codes and ordinances falls on the owner or contractor. For specific questions regarding code requirements, refer to the applicable codes or contact your local Building Department.

## PERMITS

Any pool or hot tub exceeding 24 inches in depth or 150 square feet in area shall require a building permit EXCEPT for "storable swimming pools" which may be set up outdoors without a permit between April 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Storable swimming pools must be stored indoors during the remainder of the year.

A "storable swimming pool" is defined as: A swimming pool with nonmetallic, molded polymeric walls or inflatable fabric walls constructed on or above the ground which is so constructed that it may be readily disassembled for storage and reassembled to its original integrity.

## PLANS

Plans must be submitted with any permit application for a pool or hot tub. Plans must include a site plan that shows the proposed location of the pool relative to structures, lot lines, easements, wetland buffers, or other deed restrictions. Plans must indicate the design of the fence including details on gates. Applicants should refer to the swimming pool ordinance for full information on plans. The ordinance is available at <http://www.biglakemn.org/DocumentCenter/View/257/Section-1038-PDF?bidId=>

## TEMPORARY/CONSTRUCTION BARRIER

A 4-foot barrier is required around any pool, except for storable swimming pools, as soon as it is capable of holding water. A construction fence meeting the following may be used during construction only:

- a. Be of snow fence like or similar design and be securely anchored in place.
- b. Be constructed with its base flush to the ground.
- c. Be at least four feet in height with posts no more than 8 feet apart.
- d. Remain in place until a permanent barrier is installed.

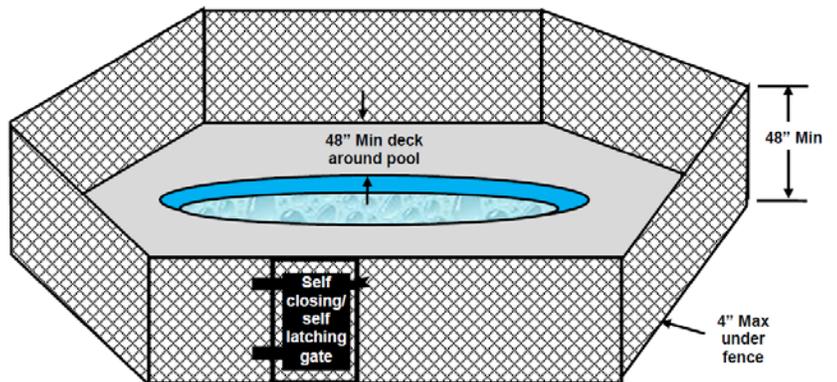
## PERMANENT BARRIER

All regulated pools and hot tubs must have a permanent barrier that is at least four feet in height.

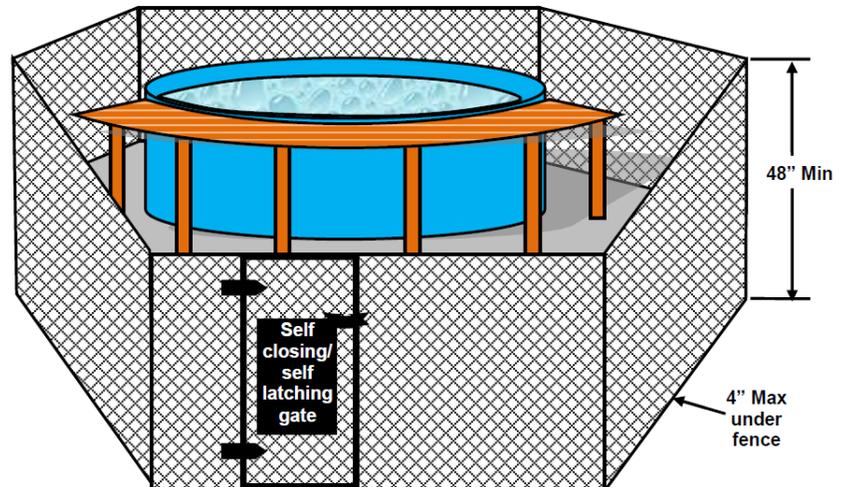
- a. Above ground pools, spas, and hot tubs with sides that create a barrier at least four (4) feet in height do not require an additional barrier.
- b. Spas and hot tubs with a safety cover complying with ASTM Performance Specification F 1346-91 shall not be required to provide an additional fence or barrier.
- c. Storable swimming pools do not require a fence or barrier provided that all means of access (ladders, etc.) are removed when the pool is not attended.
- d. If a fence is being proposed as the barrier, it must be at least four feet in height. It should have a self-closing/self-latching gate.

## THE RULES

- All pools, including storable pools, must be at least 10 feet from lot lines and may not extend into the front yard setback.
- Above ground and below ground pools must be at least six (6) feet away from any principal structure or frost footing. This rule shall not apply to hot tubs, spas, and storable pools.
- Pools may not be located in drainage and utility easements.
- The filter, pump, heating unit, and any other noise-making mechanical equipment must be at least 10 feet from side and rear property lines and cannot be in a front yard.
- *Overflow and surface drainage.* Pool decks must be designed so that no splash or overflow water returns to the pool.
- All water and drain connections must comply with the Minnesota Plumbing Code.
- *Filters.* When equipped with a filter, all pressure filter systems must be equipped with an air release at the high point in the system.
- *Pumps.* When the pumping equipment is installed above ground level below the overflow level of the pool as may be dictated by the contour of the plot on which the pool is constructed, a valve shall be installed on the main suction line located in an accessible place outside of the walls of the pool.
- *Water supply.*
  - a. Fill spouts must be at least six inches above the upper rim of the pool.
  - b. If the make-up water line discharges to a surge or balancing tank, the point of discharge shall be least six inches above the rim of the tank.
  - c. No over-the-rim spout will be acceptable unless located under a diving board or installed in a manner approved by the director of fire and building inspection services.



No fence required if sides of pool or pool sides and deck construction are at least 4' high. Deck may require guard on open side if more than 30 inches above grade.



*Drainage.*

- a. The main outlets, for purposes of recirculation and emptying swimming pools, shall be so located as to provide at least one outlet at the deepest point in the pool if the pool width does not exceed 20 feet. If the pool width is more than 20 feet, multiple outlets shall be provided and spaced not more than 20 feet apart, and not more than ten feet from walls.
  - b. All main outlets shall be equipped with gratings having an area of openings not less than four times the cross-sectional area of the outlet pipe. The gratings shall be of such design so that they cannot be readily removable by bathers and will not injure bathers' fingers.
  - c. Swimming pools shall be equipped with facilities for completely emptying the pool by gravity if elevations permit. No direct connection shall be made to the sewer. Outlets from pool recirculation systems shall terminate at least six inches above the receptacle connected to the sewer.
- Lights used to illuminate any outdoor pool shall be so arranged and shaded as to reflect light away from adjoining premises. They must not cast more than .4 footcandles of light onto adjacent properties.