

## **Pool, Spa or Hot Tub Barrier Requirements** (required by the 2009 IRC, Appendix G, Section AG 105.)

Section AG102 of Appendix G defines a swimming pool as a structure intended for recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches deep. If a pool contains water over 24 inches deep a barrier must be provided to protect against unauthorized entry.

AG105.2[1] - All pool barriers must be at least 48 inches high measured from the outside of the barrier including any grade or obstructions within 36 inches horizontally of the barrier. The area within 36 inches horizontally of the barrier must not contain any obstruction or grade level change able to be used to defeat the barrier. A pool barrier fence shall be installed within 2 inches of the ground. If using a fence installed atop an above ground pool, the fence must be installed with a maximum of 4 inches between the bottom of the fence and the top of the pool.

AG105.2[2] - Barriers including fences and gates shall be constructed to prevent passage of a 4 inch sphere through any opening in the barrier.

AG105.2[3] - Solid barriers such as masonry or stone shall not have any indentations or protrusions able to allow the barrier to be defeated.

AG105.2[4] – 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 pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in width.

AG105.2[5] – 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 cutouts shall not exceed 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in width.

AG105.2[6] Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch square unless the fence has slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the opening to not more than 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

AG105.2[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  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

AG105.2[8] – Access gates shall be a minimum of 48 inches high, shall self-close, shall self-latch and shall have a gate opening mechanism located not less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate or

[8.1] – A release mechanism may be located inside the gate if installed at least 3 inches below the top of the gate: and

8.2] – The gate and barrier shall have no opening larger than ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism. The protection for the inside latch must be mounted on the outside of the barrier.

AG105.2[9] Where the wall of a dwelling serves as part of a pool barrier, one of the following conditions shall be met:

[9.1] – The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover meeting ASTM F 1346  
OR,

[9.2 ] – Doors with direct access to the “pool area” shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible alarm when the door or screen, if present, are opened. The alarm shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2017. Alarm deactivation switches shall be located at least 54 inches above the door threshold 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 is not less than the protection afforded by items 9.1 or 9.2 described above.

AG105.2[10] – Where an above ground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted atop 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 passage of a 4 inch sphere.