

Swimming Pool Barrier

2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code

Pool Barriers

Barriers are not child proof, but they provide layers of protection for a child when there is a lapse in adult supervision. Barriers give parents additional time to find a child before the unexpected can occur.

Barriers include a fence or wall, door alarms for the house, and a power safety cover over the pool. Use the following recommendations as a guide.

The City of Auburn has adopted the pool barrier requirements of the 2021 International Pool and Spa Code.

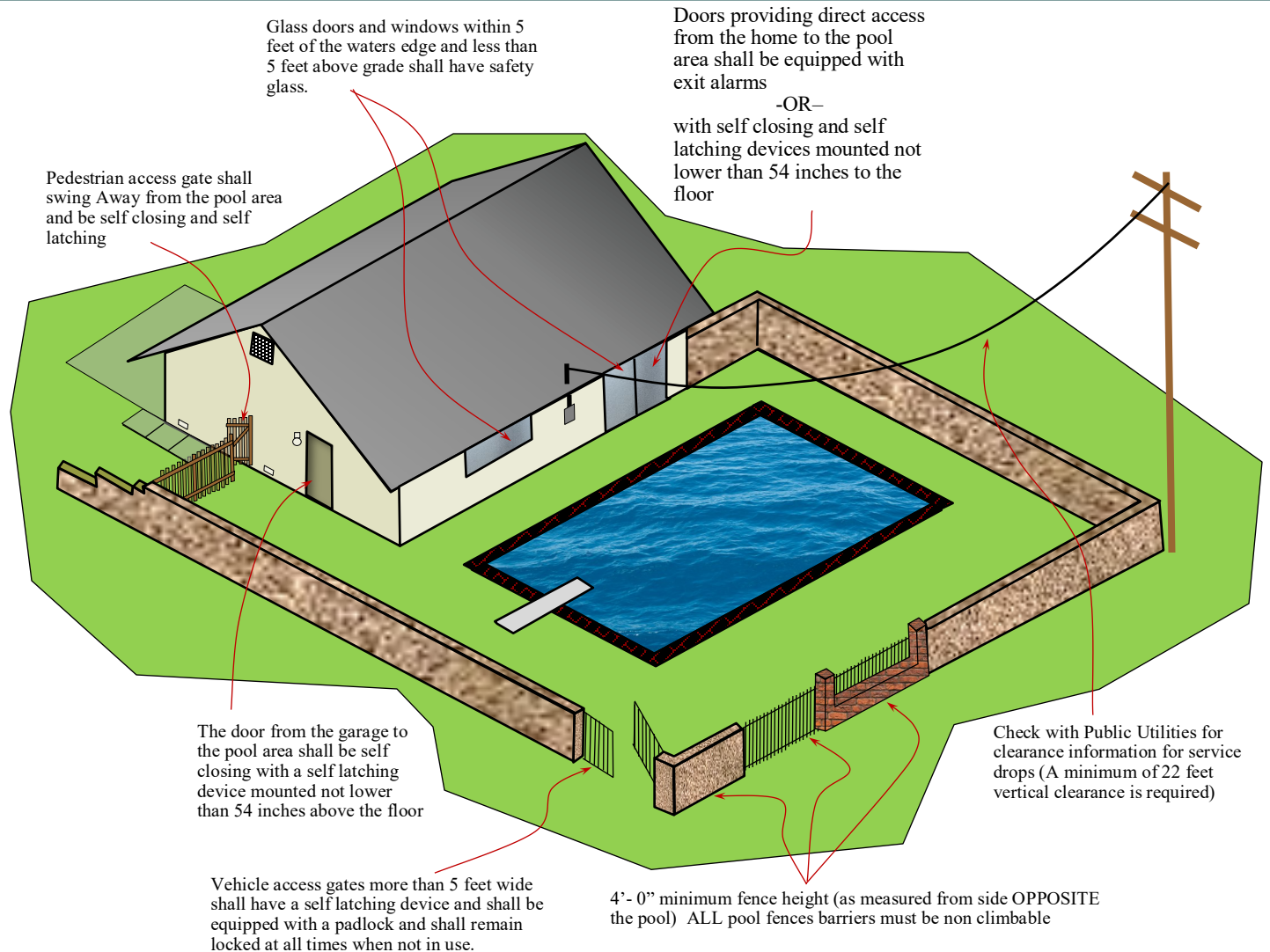
Inspection Services Department

171 North Ross Street
Auburn, AL 36830
(334) 501-3170

Hours of Operation

Monday—Friday
7:30 am - 4:30 pm

The information contained within this bulletin is the most common needed to obtain a permit and is not representative of all the conditions that may be encountered during the construction of your project.



It is the responsibility of the permit holder or the permit holder's representative to notify the city when the stages of construction are reached that require an inspection. All inspections need to be requested 24 hours prior by calling Inspection Services at 334-501-3170, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday

BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

1. Barrier height and clearances: The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches above grade measured on the side of the barrier which 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 which faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an above-ground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure, or mounted on top of the pool structure. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches (102 mm). (See Figures 2 and 4)

2. Openings: Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere. (See Figure 2)

Solid barrier surfaces: Solid barriers which do not have openings shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints. (Figure 3)

3. Closely spaced horizontal members: 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 swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1 3/4 inches in width (See Figures 2, 4, & 6). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 3/4 inches in width (See Figures 5 and 6).

A successful pool barrier prevents a child from getting **OVER, UNDER, or THROUGH** and keeps the child from gaining access to the pool except when supervising adults are present.

Latch may be located on the inside or outside of the Gate if it is 54" minimum above finished grade.

If latch is less than 54" above finished grade, latch shall be located on the inside, 3" below the top, and no opening greater than 1/2" shall be located within 18" of latch

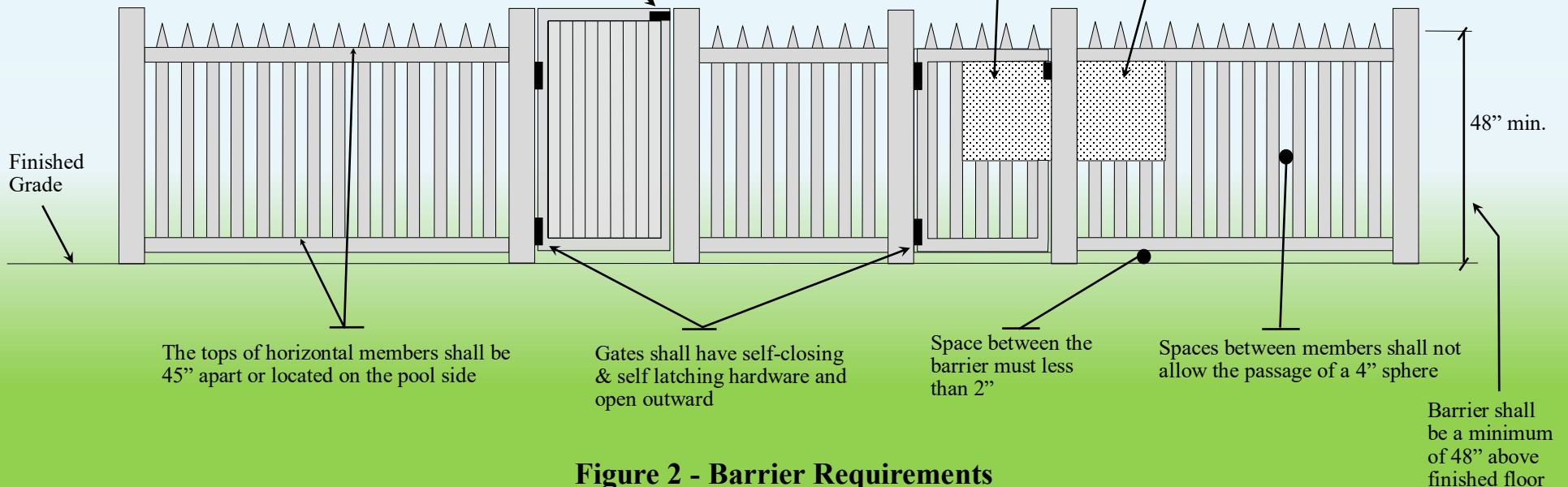


Figure 2 - Barrier Requirements

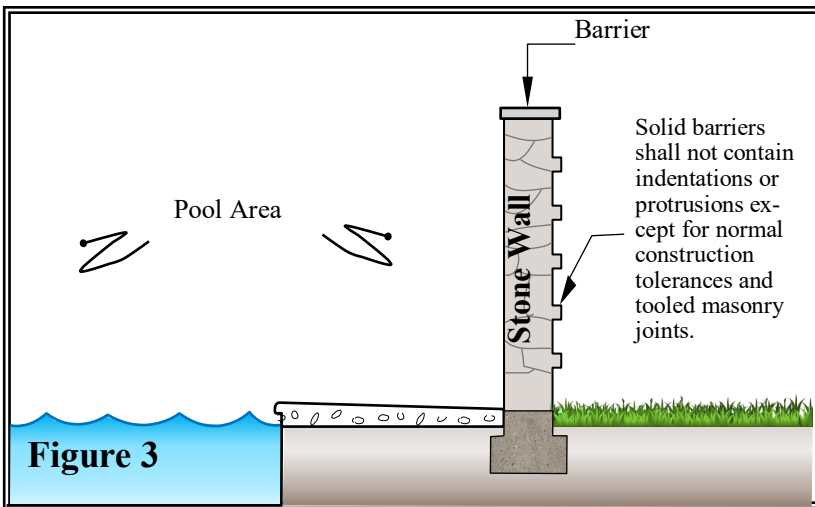


Figure 3

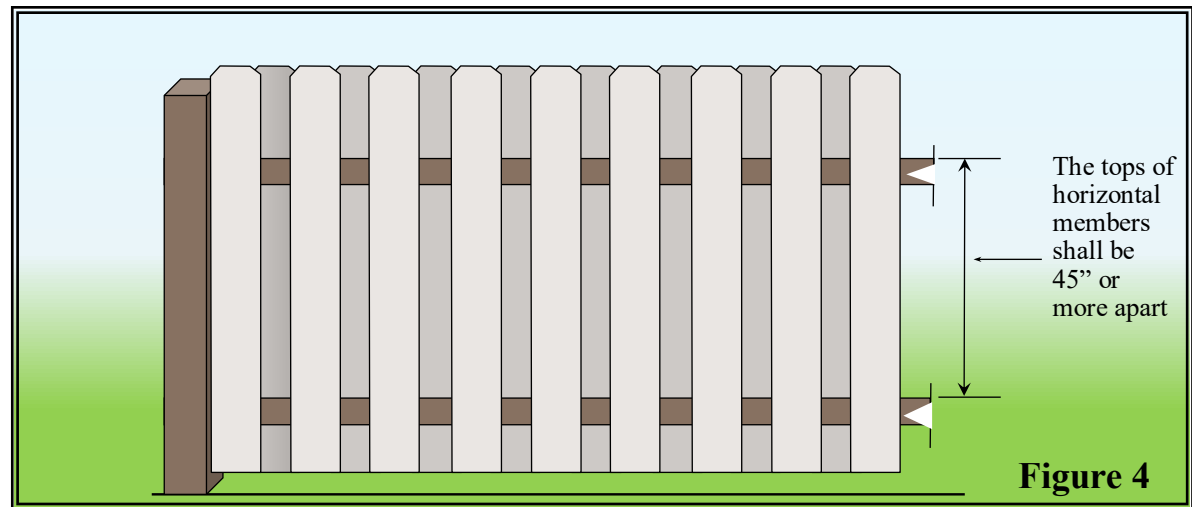


Figure 4

4. Widely Spaced horizontal members.

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 be not greater than 4 inches (See Figures 2, 4 and 6).. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 3/4 inches (44 mm) in width. (See Figures 5 and 6).

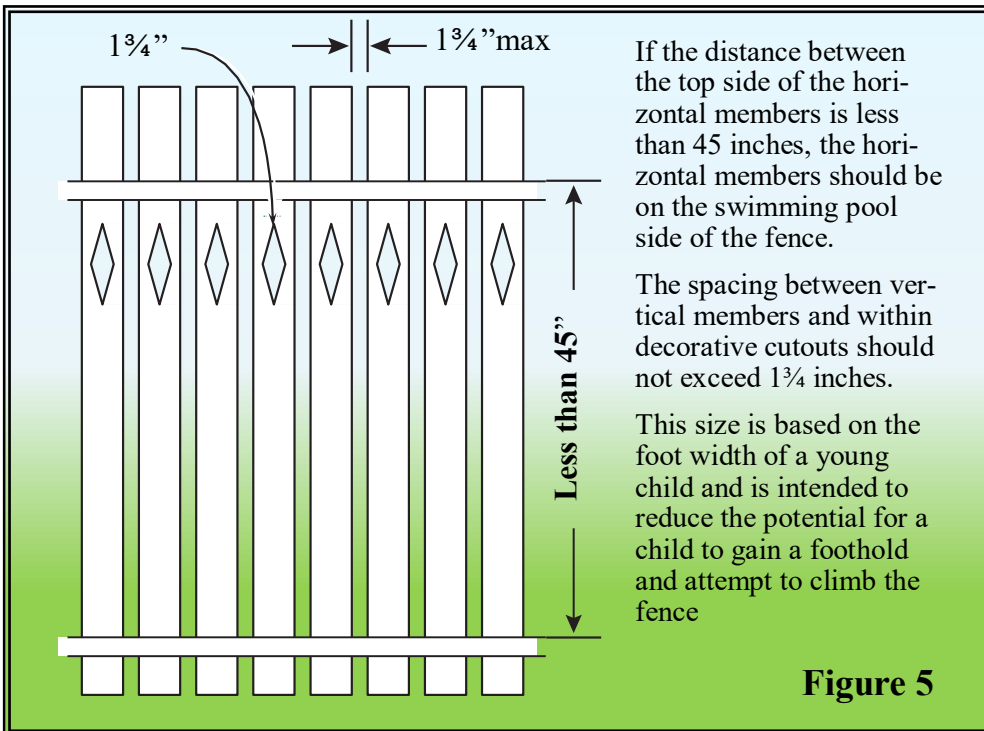


Figure 5

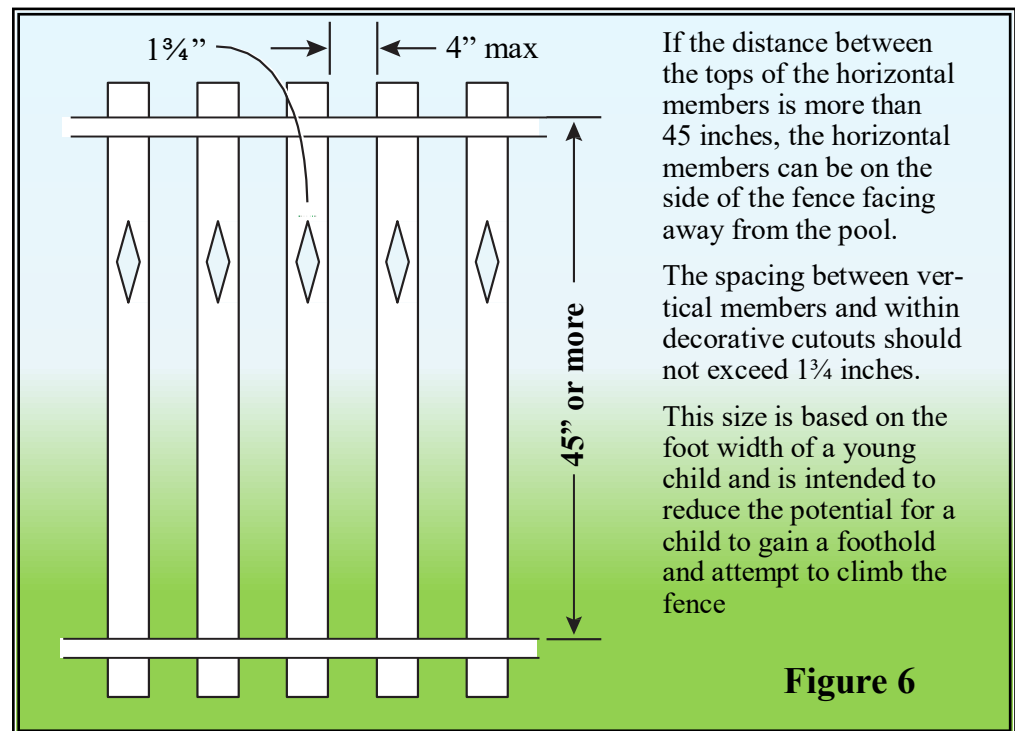


Figure 6

Access Gates

An outdoor private swimming pool, including an in-ground, above-ground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa shall be provided with a barrier which shall comply with the following.

Access gates shall comply with the requirements for a barrier and will be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outwards away from the pool and shall be both **self-closing** and **self-latching**. (See Figures 2, 7 and 9)

Chain Link Fence

The mesh size should not exceed $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches square (Figure 5) unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or bottom of the fence that reduce mesh openings to no more than $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches (Figure 6)

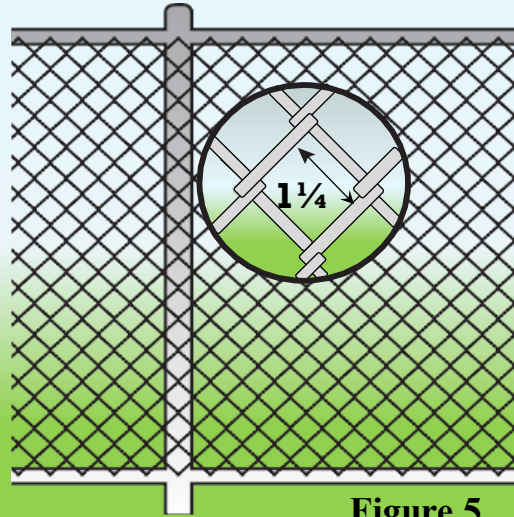


Figure 5

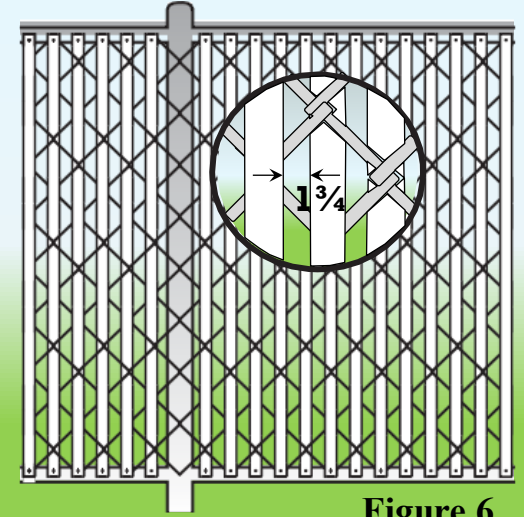


Figure 6

Gates other than pedestrian access gates (vehicle entrances, etc.) shall have a **self-latching** device. (See Figure 10)

Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate: (a) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate; and (b) the gate and barrier shall not have an opening greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism. (See Figures 8 and 2)

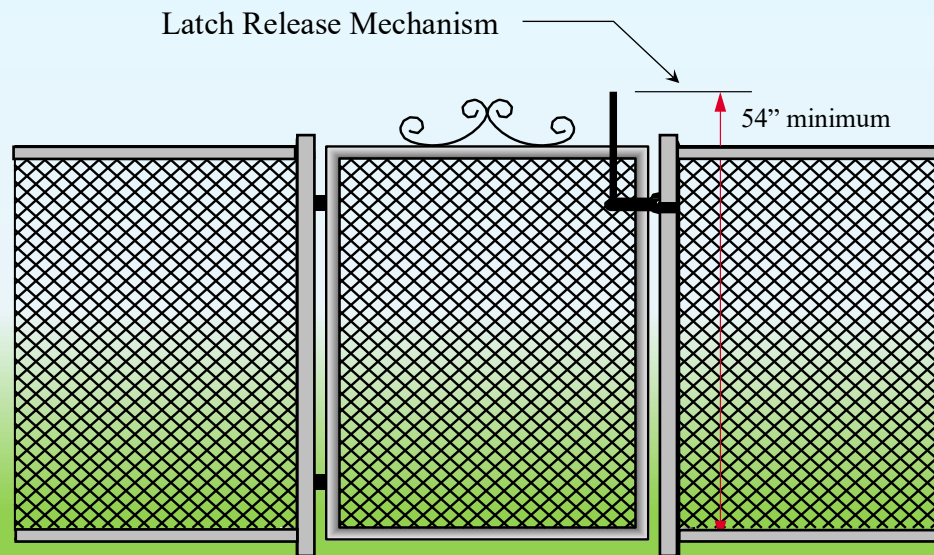


Figure 7- Access gate or pedestrian access gate

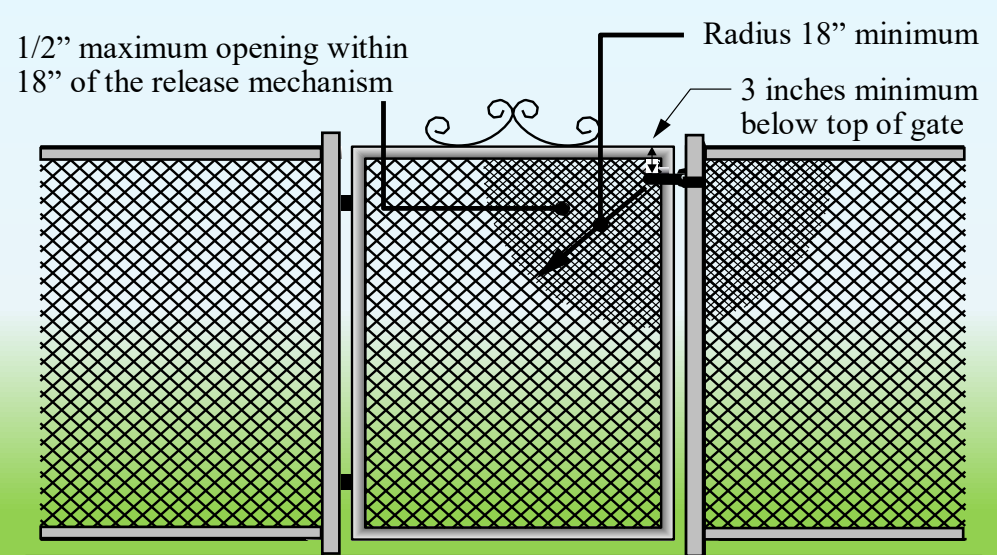


Figure 8 - Access gate or pedestrian access gate

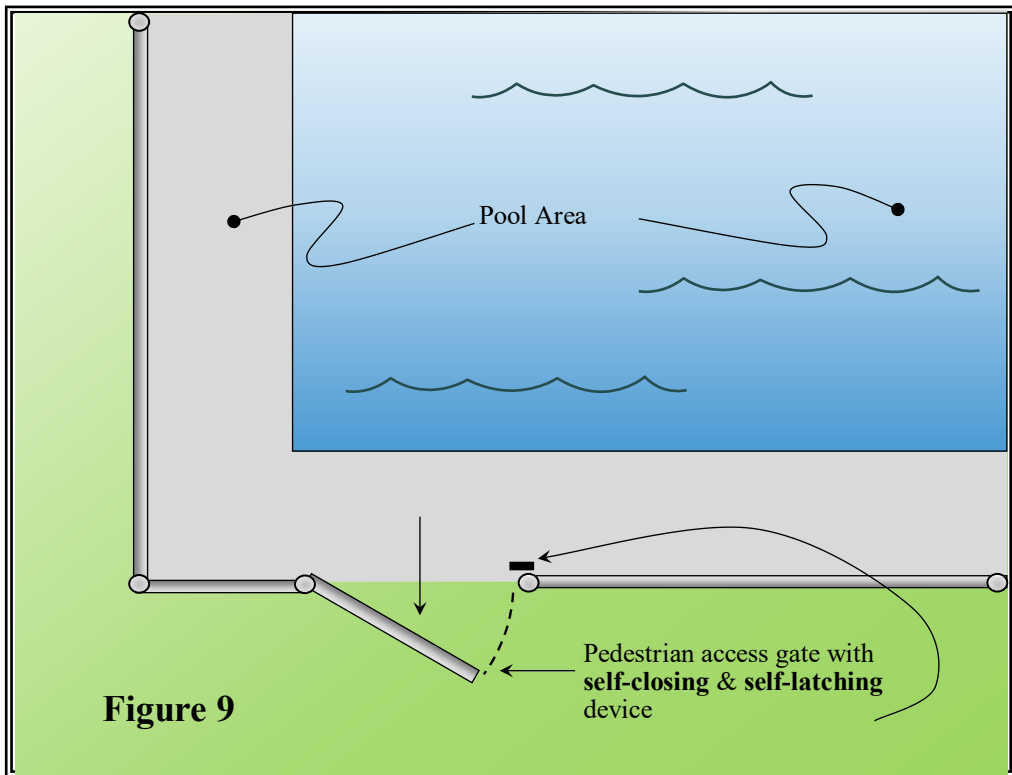


Figure 9

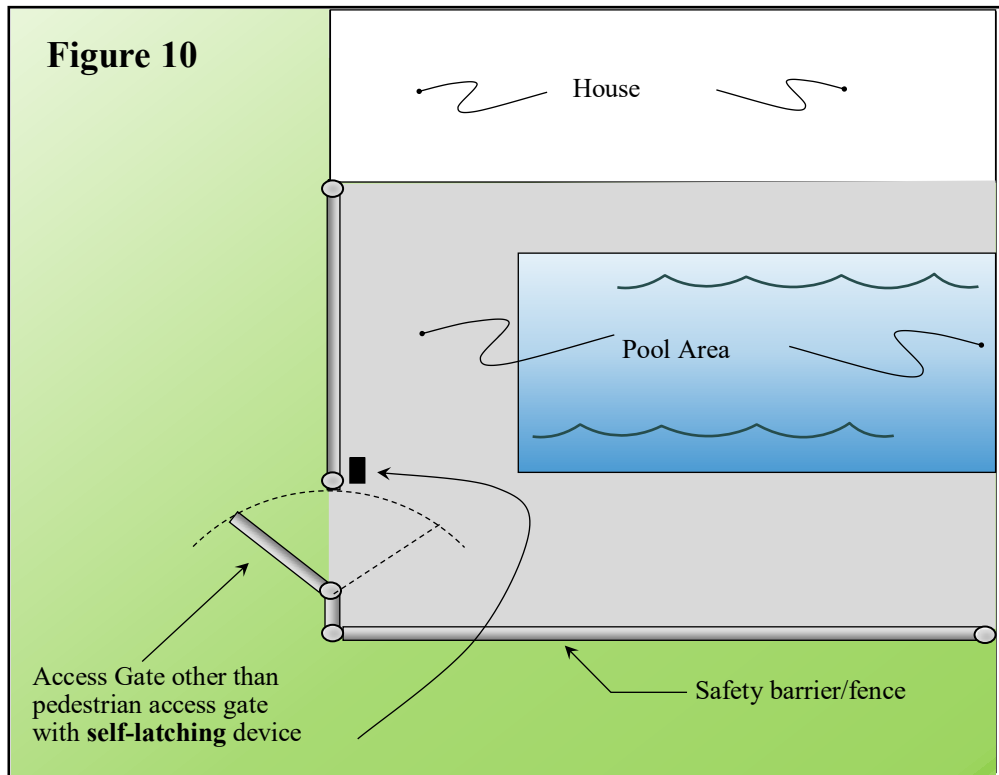


Figure 10

ABOVE GROUND POOLS

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, then the ladder or steps either shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access, or the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier that meets the barrier requirements. (See Figure 12, 12A and 12B) When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere

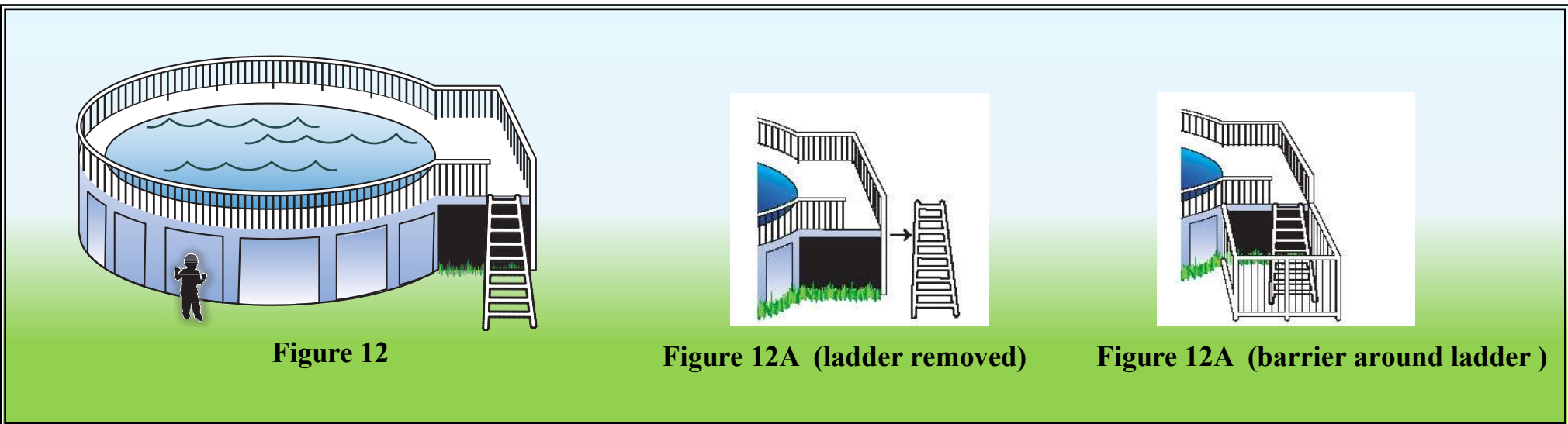


Figure 12

Figure 12A (ladder removed)

Figure 12A (barrier around ladder)

When a Dwelling Unit Serves as Part of the Pool Barrier

Where a wall of a dwelling unit serves as part of the barrier and contains a door that provides direct access to the pool, one of the following shall apply:

1. The pool shall be equipped with a power safety cover in compliance with ASTM F 1346-91. (See Figure 11)
2. All 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 its screen, if present, are opened. The audible warning shall commence not more than 7 seconds after the door and door screen, if present, are opened and shall sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds.

The alarm shall have a minimum sound pressure rating of 85 dBA at 10 feet (3048 mm) and the sound of the alarm shall be distinctive from other household sounds such as smoke alarms, telephones and door bells. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions.

The alarm shall be equipped with manual means, such as touchpads or switches, to deactivate temporarily the alarm for a single opening from either direction. Such deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds. The deactivation touchpads or switches shall be located at least 54 inches (1372 mm) above the threshold of the door. (See Figure 12 and 12A)

3. All doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device with the release mechanism located a minimum of 54 inches (1372 mm) above the floor. Swinging doors shall open away from the pool area. (See Figure 12 and 12 B)

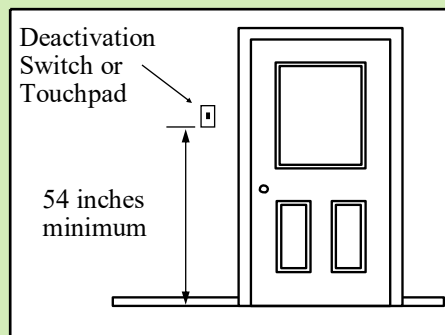


Figure 12 A

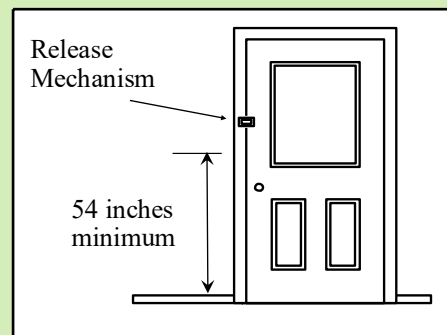


Figure 12 B

House

If there is an approved power safety cover:

- An alarm or release mechanism 54" above the floor is **not** required.
- Doors can swing in either direction.

Note:

Providing an approved safety cover **DOES NOT** eliminate the requirement to provide the safety barrier (fence). It only eliminates the requirement to alarm or provide a release mechanism 54" above the floor on doors that open into the pool area.

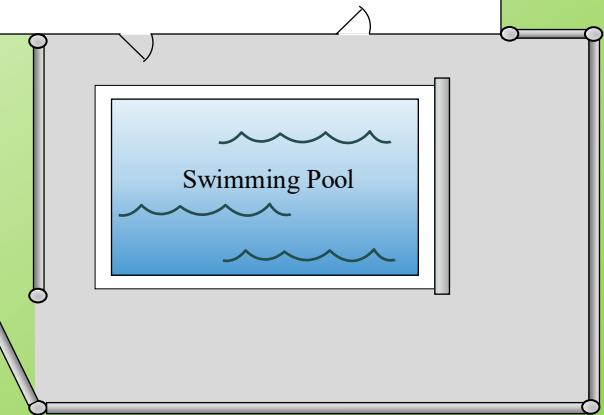


Figure 11- Safety Cover Option

House

- Have a compliant audible alarm
 - Deactivation switch located 54" minimum above floor
- OR**
- Door will be **self-closing** and **self-latching**
 - Latch will be 54" minimum above floor

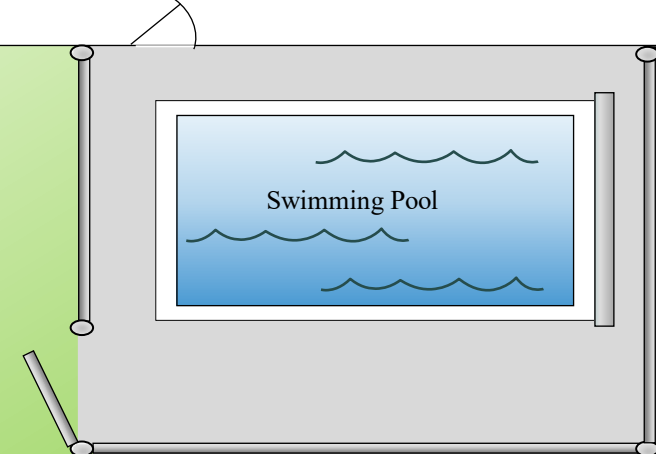


Figure 12: Alarm or Latch Options