



## **Quick Guide for Residential Swimming Pools**

All residential swimming pools, spas and barriers shall be in compliance with 2015 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC), 2015 Michigan Residential Code, and White Lake Township Clear Zoning Ordinance.

The term “residential swimming pool” is defined as a structure having a depth of at least two (2) feet and a water surface area of at least one hundred and fifty (150) square feet, which is used for swimming or bathing in connection with a residence and available only to the family and private guests of the residence.

### **Placement**

A swimming pool shall only be located within a rear yard. A swimming pool and its appurtenances must maintain a ten (10) foot minimum setback from the rear and side yard property lines. Swimming pools must comply with the National Electrical Code 2017 regarding minimum clearance from electrical wires.

### **Barrier Requirements**

Township ordinance does not allow a swimming pool powered safety cover to serve as a barrier. Barriers shall otherwise be in compliance with Section 305 of ISPSC.

Residential swimming pools must be enclosed by a four (4) foot fence or barrier (48 inches from the finished ground level).

In-Ground Swimming Pools must be enclosed by a fence that has a minimum height of 4 feet (48 inches from the finished ground level), which encloses the entire swimming pool or pool area. All gates must be self-closing, opening away from the pool and self-latching with the release mechanism located on the pool side of the gate in compliance with 305.3 of ISPSC.

Above-Ground Swimming Pools may serve as the barrier where the pool manufacturer approves the wall to serve as a barrier, and the wall measures a minimum of 48” from ground level. Ladders or steps used as a means of access must be capable of being secured, locked, removed, or surrounded by a barrier that meets the requirements of section 305 of ISPSC.

### **Fencing Specifications**

Fences must be designed to withstand a horizontal concentrated load of 200 pounds applied on a one square foot area, and in compliance with Section 305 of ISPSC

Barriers shall be located as to prohibit equipment or other objects from being used to climb the barrier.

Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, any door or window with a sill height of 48” or less, having direct access to the pool, must be equipped with an alarm.

### **Outdoor Hot Tubs**

The same fencing regulations apply to outdoor hot tubs with the exception of those hot tubs designed to hold less than 24 inches of water or have an approved lockable safety cover which remains in place whenever the hot tub is not in use.

### **Permit Requirements**

Building permits are required for all pools hot tubs or swim spas that are two (2) feet deep and have a water surface area of at least one hundred and fifty (150) square feet. Swimming Pool permit applications must be submitted to the Building Department along with 2 copies of site plans and 2 copies of construction plans. The building permit fee is based on the cost of the project and will be assessed when the permit is approved and ready to be issued.

Electrical Permits are required for all pool and hot tub installations, regardless of size or depth. Refer to National Electrical Code 2017 for specifications.

Plumbing and/or Mechanical Permits may be necessary depending on the swimming pool accessories installed.

**The fencing must be in place prior to filling the swimming pool and requesting the final inspection.  
Trades permits must have final inspections before requesting the final Pool inspection.**