



# BENSALEM TOWNSHIP

Building and Planning Department  
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2400 Byberry Road • Bensalem, PA 19020

## Swimming Pool & Spa Requirements

**Barrier:** A fence, wall, building or combination thereof, which completely surrounds the swimming pool and obstructs access to the swimming pool.

**Pool:** Any structure intended for recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches deep. This includes in-ground and above ground and on ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas.

### ALL POOLS

Must be completely surrounded by a 48 inch high barrier.

The opening in this barrier shall not be large enough to allow a 4 inch-diameter sphere to pass thru.

If the barrier is solid (no openings), it shall not have any protrusions or indentations creating a ladder effect.

All pool fencing must be installed so that the “Nice” side is facing away from the pool area. All support beams and members are to be viewed from inside the pool area that is enclosed.

On stockade type barriers, when spacing between horizontal members is less than 45 inches, the vertical member spacing shall not exceed 1 ¾ inches in width. Where horizontal spacing is more than 45 inches between members, vertical member spacing shall not exceed 4 inches in width.

The maximum mesh size on chain link fencing shall not exceed 2 ¼ inches UNLESS the fencing has slats fastened to it.

All gates (except those larger than 6 feet in width) must open outward and away from the pool, have a self-closing device and have a self-latching device.

The release mechanism for the self-latching device must be 54 inches or more from the bottom of the gate. **IF**, the release mechanism is less than 54 inches, it must be located on the pool side of the fence and at least 3 inches from the top of the gate. There must also be no openings larger than ½ inch located within 18 inches of the release mechanism.

The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover **OR** Any door (including a sliding glass door) that leads directly into the enclosed area where the pool is located, must be equipped with an alarm that has an audible warning that can be heard from anywhere inside the house. A pool alarm must activate within 7 seconds of opening the door and be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door. **PLEASE NOTE:** Burglar alarm systems are not acceptable.

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### Above Ground Pools

Pools that have a wall height measuring 48” above grade do not need an additional barrier.

Pools that have a wall height measuring **Less** than 48” require an additional barrier either on ground level or mounted to the top of the pool structure. Barriers mounted on the top of the pool structure shall not have a vertical clearance more than 4 inches from the top of the pool structure to the bottom of the barrier itself.

Any ladders or steps located on an above ground pool must be able to be secured, locked or folded up and locked to prevent access. For those ladders which are permanently fastened, a 48” barrier is required around them along with the requirements mentioned in Numbers 1 thru 8 listed above.

Spas and hot tubs with an approved ASTM F 1346 safety cover are exempt from barrier requirements.

**I have read and understand all the requirements as listed above.**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Owners Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date