

MINIMUM CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS & SPAS

This list is a guide for *minimum* requirements per Kern County Code of Building Regulations, Health and Safety Code (HSC), 2019 CA Building Code (CBC), 2019 CA Residential Code (CRC), 2019 CA Mechanical Code, 2019 CA Plumbing Code, 2019 CA Electrical Code, and the 2019 CA Energy Code (CEC). It is not intended as an all-inclusive list of applicable code requirements.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per HSC §115922 (Pool and Spa Safety Act of 2006), whenever a construction permit is issued for construction of a new swimming pool or spa, or any building permit is issued for remodeling of an existing pool or spa, at a private, single family home, it shall be equipped with at least <u>two</u> of the following items: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The pool shall be isolated from access to a home by an enclosure that meets the requirements of the latest edition of CBC or Health and Safety Code, whichever is more restrictive will govern. 2) The pool shall incorporate removable mesh pool fencing that meets ASTM F2286 standards in conjunction with a gate that is self-closing and self-latching and can accommodate a key lockable device. 3) The pool shall be equipped with an approved safety pool cover that meets all requirements of ASTM F1346. Spas shall be equipped with a locking safety cover that complies with ASTM ES13-89. 4) The residence shall be equipped with exit alarms on those doors providing direct access to the pool. 5) All doors providing direct access from the home to the swimming pool shall be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor. 6) Swimming pool alarms that, when placed in pools, will sound upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. Such alarms shall meet and be independently certified to the ASTM F2208. • Per HSC §115928, whenever a building permit is issued for the construction of a new swimming pool or spa, it shall meet <u>all</u> of the following requirements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a) The suction outlet of the pool or spa for which the permit is issued shall be equipped to provide circulation throughout the pool; or <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b) The swimming pool or spa shall have at least two circulation drains per pump that shall be hydraulically balanced and symmetrically plumbed through one or more "T" fittings, and that are separated by a distance of at least three feet in any dimension between the drains. 2) Suction outlets that are less than 12 inches across shall be covered with antientrapment grates, as specified in the ANSI/APSP16 performance standard, that cannot be removed except with the use of tools. Slots or openings in the grates or similar protective devices shall be of a shape, area, and arrangement that would prevent physical entrapment and would not pose any suction hazard to bathers. 3) Any backup safety system that an owner of a new swimming pool or spa may choose to install in addition to the requirements set forth in subdivisions (a) and (b) shall meet the standards as published in the document, "Guidelines for Entrapment Hazards: Making Pools and Spas Safer," Publication Number 363, March 2005, United States Consumer Product Safety Commission. 4) Whenever a building permit is issued for the remodel or modification of an existing swimming pool, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> toddler pool, or spa, the permit shall require that the suction outlet of the existing swimming pool, toddler pool, or spa be upgraded so as to be equipped with an antientrapment cover meeting current requirements of ANSI/APSP-16 performance standard. • Per CBC §3109.2-115932, Pool enclosures shall be in accordance with the following requirements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Enclosures shall be a minimum height of 60 inches. 2) Access gates through the enclosure shall open away from the swimming pool and are self-closing with a self-latching device placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground. 3) Two (2") inches maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure. 4) The maximum open space for gaps or voids in any enclosure shall not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than 4 inches in diameter. 5) The outside surface of an enclosure shall be free of protrusions, cavities or other physical characteristics that would serve as handholds or foot-holds that could enable a child below the age of five years to climb over. • Per CRC §R308.4.5, glazing in walls and fences used as the barrier for indoor and outdoor swimming pools and spas must be safety glazing if the bottom edge of the glazing is less than 60 inches above the pool side of the glazing and within 5 feet of the pool or spa water's edge. • Swimming pools and spas shall conform to Article 680 of the latest edition of California Electric Code. • Per CEC §110.4, the following are mandatory measures for installed pool and spa <u>heating</u> system and equipment (Note: Please see code exceptions for solar energy): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A thermal efficiency that complies with the Appliance Efficiency Regulations, on-off switch mounted outside of the heater, weatherproof operating instructions, no electric resistance heating and no pilot light. 2) System is installed with a) at least 36 inches of pipe between filter and heater for future solar heating, b) cover for outdoor pools and spas. 3) Pool system has directional inlets and a circulation pump time switch. • Pump sizing and flow rate including system piping shall comply with the requirements of CEC §150.0(p). • Permit applicant shall complete and submit CF2R-PLB-03-E form with permit application. • Inspection will be required for swimming pools for each of the following phases: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Prior to concrete placement (gunite). 2) Prior to plaster. All required safety features shall be permanently installed prior to this inspection. 3) Final inspection. • Per CBC §3109.2-115924, any person entering into an agreement to build a swimming pool or spa, or to engage in permitted work on a pool or spa, shall give the consumer notice of the requirements of pool safety information pursuant to existing law. Refer to this section for more information.
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