



❖ Pool Safety Regulations ❖

Sad statistics: Drowning is the leading cause of death for California children ages one to four. From 2010 through 2015, more than 160 young children died of drowning in the state and more than 700 were hospitalized for near-fatal drownings, according to Steve Barrow, program director with the California Coalition for Children's Safety and Health.

California State Law (*Health and Safety Code Section 115922*) requires that certain drowning prevention safety features be met before a swimming pool or spa may be used.

In addition to a regular 3-sided pool fence, that separates the pool or spa from adjoining properties, all new swimming pools and spas must have **at least two** of the following 6 safety features. The homeowner may choose any combination of two of these protective features. The most common combination chosen by homeowners is #4 (Door Alarms) and #6 (Approved Pool Alarms).

An Enclosure (aka: fence) that isolates the pool or spa from the home. The enclosure shall have all of the following characteristics:

- (a) Any access gates through the enclosure open away from the swimming pool, and are self-closing with a self-latching device placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground.
- (b) A minimum height of 60 inches.
- (c) A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of two inches.
- (d) Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than four inches in diameter.
- (e) An outside surface free of protrusions, cavities, or other physical characteristics that would serve as handholds or footholds that could enable a child below the age of five years to climb over. (*NOTE: Standard Chain Link fencing is considered climbable by children and therefore is non-compliant unless altered in a manner approved by the City.*)

Approved Removable Mesh safety fence, which isolates the pool or spa from the home. Removable mesh safety fencing must meet all of the performance standards of American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard F2286 and a gate that is self-closing and self-latching and can accommodate a key lockable device.

Approved Safety pool cover or automatic cover. Approved safety pool cover means a manually or power-operated safety pool cover that meets all of the performance standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard F1346-91.

Door Alarms. Exit alarms mounted no less than 54" above the floor on all doors that provide direct access to the swimming pool or spa. The exit alarm may cause either an alarm noise or a verbal warning, such as a repeating notification that "the door to the pool is open". Exit alarms may be battery operated or may be connected to the electrical wiring of the building.

Door Self-closing and self-latching systems, with latch at least 54" above floor. A self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor on all doors providing direct access to the swimming pool or spa.

Approved Pool Alarms. Alarms that, when placed in a swimming pool and/or spa, will sound upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. The alarm shall meet and be independently certified to the ASTM Standard F2208 Standard, which includes surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser, and infrared type alarms. Separate alarms will be required to be installed in the spa and in the pool or other separate body of water if the water features are isolated bodies of water. (*NOTE: A swimming protection alarm feature designed for individual use, including an alarm attached to a child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water, is not a qualifying drowning prevention safety feature.*)

BUILDING & SAFETY DIVISION