



# Information Sheet

Administrative  
Department

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## Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs, and Spas

Revised December 2021

### Frequently asked questions:

#### **Do I need a permit?**

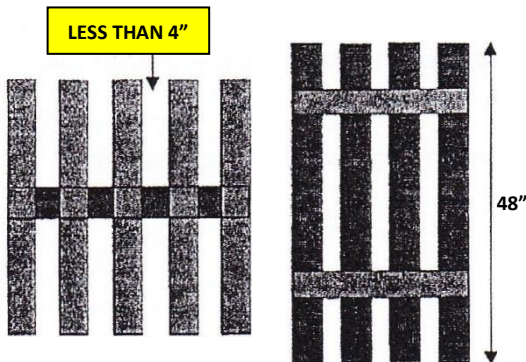
Yes, if it is intended for swimming or recreational bathing and contains water over 24 inches deep.

#### **Do I need a fence?**

Yes - barriers such as fences and walls are required for pools containing over 24 inches of water. The pool area must be completely contained within these barriers.

The specific requirements are as follows:

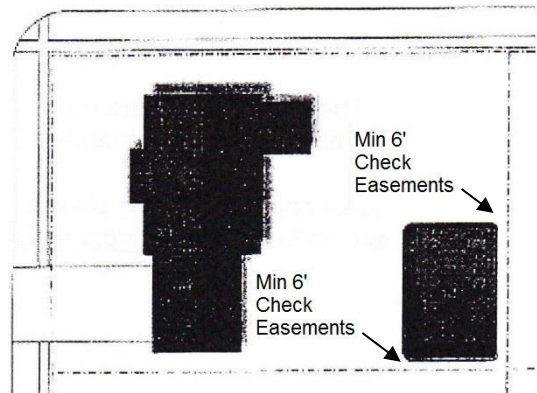
- The top of the barrier must be at least 48" tall on side facing away from pool. Above ground pools with minimum 48" tall sidewalls can serve as the barrier.
- Openings in the barrier cannot allow passage of a 4" sphere.
- Any door, within a wall or barrier with direct access to the pool area must be alarmed. There are specific alarm requirements per National Code.
- Any ladders or steps must be secured or removed to prevent access when not in use.



#### **Are there specific location requirements for my pool, hot tub, or spa?**

Yes - Pools, Hot tubs, and spas are referred to as Accessory structures. This means they must meet the zoning requirements of the area where they will be located. Refer to diagrams for more information.

- Minimum distance to side or rear property line is 6 feet, but in no case in an easement. Depending on zone district the distance from the property line may be 10' or 25'.
- Verify overhead power lines.
- Maximum lot coverage of all may be 10% - 30%, depending on zoning district.



Example:

Lot size: 12,500 sq. ft. in R-3 Zone

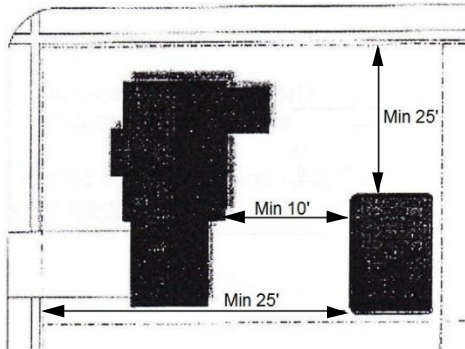
House/garage area: 2400 sq. ft.

Driveway: 20' X 25' = 500 sq. ft.

23.2% of lot is covered.

Pool and deck area can be up to 850 sq. ft.

- Minimum distance from the front and side street property lines is 25 feet. (May be up to 50 feet, depending on zoning class)
- Minimum distance from house is 10 feet. (May be up to 20 feet, depending on zoning class.)



### *Is there anything else I should know?*

Yes- There are also special electrical requirements that are very important. Please consult a qualified electrician for the full wiring safety techniques.

- All metal in proximity of the pool must be bonded.
- Underground conduits and wires have location, depth, and material type restrictions.
- Equipment cords have specially designed lengths, plugs, and receptacle types for wet locations.
- Grounding is required between the service panel and the pool equipment.
- Lighting and landscape fixtures may require extra protection.

If you have any questions or doubts regarding electrical requirements, please consult a qualified electrician.

Drainage- Attention is required to ensure pool drain water and any cover pump discharge may neither cause a nuisance to neighbors nor be discharged to the street. Neighborhood Regulations - Be sure to check with subdivision covenants and restrictions for additional specific regulations. *For applicants on the Village Collection System please see Ordinance section 50.086, if a separate water meter is desired.*

### *What is the next step?*

Complete and submit your permit application with site plan. This can be obtained at the Village Hall.

**PLEASE NOTE:** These guidelines are not a comprehensive presentation of all the ordinances and building codes involved in placing, erecting, or constructing a pool, hot tub, or spa.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Village Administrative Department at (618) 632-1022 or [kwilliams@shilohil.org](mailto:kwilliams@shilohil.org).

## *Portable Pools Pose Drowning Risk for Young Kids*

Mon, Jun 20, 2011

MONDAY, June 20 (HealthDay News) -- Portable swimming pools, including the increasingly popular, inflatable models, pose serious risks to young children, experts warn.

In a new study, investigators at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, detail the drowning deaths of more than 200 children under 12 years old linked to a variety of above-ground pools, some large and deep, others small and shallow.

"About every five days a child drowns in a portable pool in the U.S.," said lead researcher Dr. Gary A. Smith, director of the hospital's Center for Injury Research and Policy.

Because these pools are inexpensive and easy to assemble, many parents may not consider them as big a risk as in-ground pools, he said. The greatest risks are for children younger than 5 years, the researchers found.

The report, published in the June 20 online edition of *Pediatrics*, highlights the need for safety precautions around all pools, safety advocates said.

"Safe Kids has been concerned about the increasing use of backyard pools that are too small for consumers to consider investing in fencing but too large to make them easy to empty and secure safely after each use," said Meri-K Appy, president of Safe Kids USA in a statement Friday. "This important study confirms our speculation that portable pools in backyards across America pose special risks to young children."

For the study, Smith's team used 2001-2009 data from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. During this period, the researchers identified 209 drowning deaths and 35 near-drownings in children under 12.

They found that 94 percent of the children were under 5 and most (56 percent) were boys. In addition, about three-quarters of the deaths took place in the child's own yard, usually during the summer.

More than 40 percent of the drownings occurred when the child was being supervised; 39 percent happened with no adult supervision; and 18 percent were blamed on a lapse of supervision.

About 40 percent of the drownings happened in a shallow wading pool, Smith said.

"That's in 18 inches or less of water," Smith said. "Children can drown in very small amounts of water. Very young children can drown in a five-gallon bucket with water in the bottom. It only takes a couple of inches and a few minutes."

"Close supervision of young children around water is really important, but supervision alone isn't enough," he

continued.

While a variety of safety measures such as alarms and fencing are available for in-ground pools, Smith said, this is not the case for portable pools. The researchers call for industry development of affordable fencing and reliable pool alarms and covers for portable pools.

Many techniques used to deny access to in-ground pools, such as fencing, cost more than a portable pool itself, he said. "We have to come up with other strategies that are affordable and effective for portable pools."

Experts said the study also raises concerns about pool ladders. "Most of the kids got into the pool using a ladder that was provided with the pool," Smith said.

He suggested removing the pool ladder when no one is bathing and storing it where children can't get to it.

Dr. Barbara Gaines, director of trauma and injury prevention at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, said that "this reminds us that while water is very inviting for children, it is also extremely hazardous."

Parents need to be very watchful when their children are in and around water, including pools, ponds and bathtubs, Gaines said. "Never underestimate water."

Gaines advises parents who have wading pools to empty it out when the pool is not in use. "That's the safest thing," she said.

Also, parents must actively supervise their children, Gaines said. "Someone has to be on pool duty."

Safe Kids promotes a pool-safety concept called "Lock, Look and Learn":

- LOCK: Erect fencing at least 4 feet high with a self-latching gate and keep it locked at all times unless an adult is present.
- LOOK: Parents and caregivers should watch children in or near the water at all times, and not socialize, read or sleep.
- LEARN: "Adults should learn to swim themselves and provide swimming lessons to their children from an early age," Appy said. They should also know how to respond to an emergency -- "use rescue equipment, call 911 and perform CPR," she added