



Community & Economic Development Department
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SWIMMING POOL, SPA AND HOT TUB GUIDELINES

Construction, alteration or relocation of most temporary or permanent outdoor swimming pools, spas and hot tubs shall conform to these Zoning Ordinance standards:

- ▶ These requirements apply to any basin or structure for holding water for swimming, diving, and other aquatic recreation, except that these requirements do not apply to plastic, canvas, vinyl or rubber pools temporarily erected on the ground that hold less than three hundred (300) gallons of water
- ▶ Private swimming pools shall be subject to the requirements in the Building Code.
- ▶ The pool shall be equipped with filtration, circulation, and chlorination systems adequate to maintain the water in a clean and healthy condition in accordance with the requirements of the Central Michigan District Health Department.
- ▶ The discharge pipe leading from a private swimming pool shall be composed of durable material and size approved by the Building Official. A private swimming pool shall not be wholly or partially emptied onto another property unless written permission is first obtained from the property owner.
- ▶ A plumbing permit shall be required if the pool system is connected to a potable water supply.
- ▶ Every private swimming pool shall be completely enclosed by a permanent fence and lockable gate that complies with the requirements in the Building Code.
- ▶ Private swimming pools shall not be located in the front yard; on corner lots, no part of any pool shall be constructed within the front yard of either street. Swimming pools shall be set back a minimum distance of twenty (20) feet from any side or rear lot line. As an accessory structure shall be located at least ten (10) feet from any building on site.
- ▶ No electrical wiring shall overhang the surface of the water or be located where there is a danger of falling in the water. Lighting of the pool and surrounding area shall be focused to not shine on adjacent properties and buildings.

To prevent unauthorized access and protect the general public, swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs shall be secured in accordance with the requirements of the State Construction Code, as follows.

- ▶ An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground, above-ground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa shall not be placed over or under existing service-drop conductors or under any other open overhead wiring. Refer to 2015 MRC Chapter 42.

- ▶ An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground, above-ground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa shall be surrounded by a barrier (2015 ISOSC section 305), which shall further comply with the following: (please check or circle all of the following elements that will be used)
 - ☐ The barrier shall be at least 48 inches in height above grade.
 - ☐ Any openings in the barrier shall not exceed four (4) inches in width/diameter.
 - ☐ The barrier may be at ground level, such as a fence or the pool wall itself.
 - ☐ The barrier may be mounted on top of the pool wall to provide the necessary height.
 - ☐ Barrier may be a fence (chain-link, privacy or similar) around the pool or entire yard.
 - ☐ Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier:
 - The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover or
 - Doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm, (listed and labeled as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017) where the deactivation switch is no greater than 54 inches and not less than 48 inches.
 - ☐ Where an above-ground pool structure is used as a barrier:
 - The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access.
 - ☐ Access gates shall be equipped:
 - To open away from pool side, latch release mechanism shall be located on pool side, be self-closing and self-latching and accommodate a locking device.
 - Release mechanism of the self-latching device to be located not less than 54 inches from grade or other restrictions apply per code 305.3.3.
 - Swing away from pool side.

Approval of a Township [building permit](#) with zoning approval is required for most permanent swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.