

SWIMMING POOLS

Address: 111 N Front Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Website: www.columbus.gov/bzs

When is a permit required for a swimming or wading pool?

A building permit is required for the installation, repair, maintenance, or location of any swimming or wading pool that is capable of a water depth of more than 24 inches.

Fencing and Gate Requirements

No person shall locate, construct, install, make, change, maintain or use any swimming pool or wading pool unless the pool is enclosed by a fence or other permanent barrier not less than forty-eight (48) inches in height, measured from the ground.

- Fences 6 feet or less in height are not regulated as a structure and can be placed in the rear yard with no setback from the property lines. See zoning information Form Z-38 for additional information concerning fences.
- Access gates must open outward from the pool and must be self-closing and have a self-latching device and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device.
- Gate releases must be located at least 54 inches from the bottom of the gate or be located more than three (3) inches from the top of the gate on the inside and have no opening greater than ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.
- Where a wall of a dwelling unit forms part of the required barrier and direct access to the pool is through a door from the dwelling, one of the following must be provided.
 - i The door shall be equipped with an alarm that sounds when the door and/or screen door is opened. A touch pad used to deactivate the alarm shall be mounted at least 54 inches above the floor.
 - ii The door must open away from the pool area, be self-closing with self-latching device. Self-latching devices with a release mechanism shall be located a minimum 54" above the floor.
- A swimming pool at least 48 inches high measured from the grade with a removable ladder or barrier around the ladder is exempt from 48-inch-high barrier requirement. Non-removal ladders must have a barrier around the ladder capable of self-latching and be self-closing or be secured to prevent access. Drawings or other information for this assembly are required to be submitted.
- Swimming pools with a power safety cover, spas and hot tubs with a safety cover complying with ASTM F 1346 shall be exempt from the barrier requirement.

Zoning Restrictions

A pool capable of a depth greater than 12 inches must be located in accordance with all applicable zoning regulations. A pool cannot be located in any front yard or required side yard. No pool can be permitted that is specifically prohibited by limitation text for the zoning district. Contact the zoning department at 645-8637.

Drainage Requirements

Any water drained from a swimming pool should go to a sanitary sewer. Pool water may also be used for the watering of the owner's garden and lawn, but it must not leave that owner's property except through a sanitary sewer.

Electrical Requirements

A storable swimming pool or wading pool located on or above ground with a maximum height of 42 inches or a pool with nonmetallic, molded polymeric walls or inflatable fabric walls (regardless of height) requires the pump/filter motor to be provided with a ground-fault circuit interrupter that is an integral part of the power cord and be plugged into a GFCI protected outlet.

In-ground pools and on ground or above ground pools greater than 42-inches high are required to comply fully with Article 680 of the National Electric Code. For swimming pools with light fixtures and pools with metal parts such as metal sides, reinforcing strips or caps, contact a licensed electrician or call the City of Columbus at 645-6076 for additional information.

What you need to obtain a building permit for a private swimming pool

1. Completed Building Permit Application form by owner or licensed home improvement contractor.
2. A completed Electric Permit application by the homeowner or a licensed electrical contractor must accompany the building permit application when electric work is required.
3. Two (2) copies of a site plan. The site plan should show the following items at a minimum:
 - a. Electric service line (underground or overhead) distance from electrical lines
 - b. Sanitary sewer line location for in-ground pools only (CALL 645-5825)
 - c. Fence location and height
 - d. Diameter or length and width of the pool
 - e. Height of the pool
 - f. Material pool is constructed of
 - g. Distance from the pool edge to the property lines
 - h. Distance from the pool edge to any structure located on the property
 - i. Location of all electric outlets within 20 feet of any part of the pool (no electrical outlets are permitted closer than 6 feet to the pool)

4. Literature on pool entry systems for other than perimeter fencing. This literature should illustrate the spring latching type lock or catch and show how the gate will close by spring action to the locked/latched position.
5. All in-ground and/or in-door swimming pools and all pools greater than 42-inches in height require two (2) copies of the pool structural drawings sealed by an architect or engineer. If there is a deck that is metal and part of the pool assembly, the deck drawings must be sealed as well. Wood decks must conform to C.C. 4113 and do not require a seal.

A zoning, building or health department official may require additional information. For more information, please call the Health Department at 645-7417 or Building Services at 645-7433. For questions concerning electrical work, please call 645-6076.