

# PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS

The following is a summary of some of the code requirements regarding the installation and use of swimming pools, both in ground and aboveground. These rules do not apply to pools that are less than 24" deep, or less than 250 square feet in surface area, unless those pools have permanent water recirculation facilities. (A round pool with a diameter greater than 8.92' is larger than 250 square feet.)

1. Location and permitting: Pools that are subject to these rules require a building permit, and must meet setbacks required by the zoning ordinance. The walls of an in ground pool must be at least 20' from septic system leach fields and 8' from septic tanks. Above ground pools and ancillary pool structures such as aprons, decks, etc. must be at least 15' from septic system leach fields, and 8' from septic tanks. Pools also may require electrical and plumbing permits, as applicable

2. Security: Pools subject to these rules that are 24 or more inches deep at any point must have an enclosure surrounding the pool or property sufficient to make the pool inaccessible to small children, typically a fence. The enclosure must be at least 4' high above adjacent ground at all points. Any gates in the enclosure must be self closing and self latching, with latches placed at least 4' above the adjacent ground and otherwise inaccessible from the outside to small children. Barriers other than fences (hedges, natural features, etc.) are acceptable if approved by the Codes Enforcement Officer.

Aboveground pools must have walls at least 4' high above adjacent ground to not require the above described barrier. If an aboveground pool has walls at least 4' high, and is accessed only by a removable ladder, removing the ladder when the pool is not in use is considered an acceptable means of security. If an aboveground pool has a deck, stairs, porch, etc. adjacent to it, access to these features must meet applicable building code/structural requirements, as well as the 4' barrier requirement. Portions of decks adjacent to/associated with a pool over 30" above adjacent ground must have a railing, at least 36" high, with no opening in the railing system larger than a 4" sphere can fit through.

There are State laws that apply to pool fencing. You can view these laws on the State's website at [www.maine.gov](http://www.maine.gov).

3. Electrical: Pools subject to these rules cannot be located beneath or within 10' of overhead power lines. Pools cannot be located over or within 5' of buried power lines, other than wiring to serve required pool related electrical equipment. There are some exceptions to this. Ask for details. In ground pools and aboveground pools with walls over 42" high: The outlet for the pool pump must be a grounded, single, twist lock, GFCI protected outlet located between 5 and 10' from the pool wall. The cord on the pool pump cannot be longer than 3'. An additional GFCI protected outlet must be provided between 10 and 20' from the pool wall for general use, located no more than 6'-6" above the ground or deck surface adjacent to the pool.

Aboveground pools with walls 42" or less in height: The pump outlet must be grounded, GFCI protected, and must be at least 10' from the wall of the pool. The pump assembly must be double insulated and grounded. The pump cord on these pools can be any length. There are many specific electrical requirements for pools, especially for in ground ones. If you have any questions, ask.

3. Operational: All pools must have at least one means of egress while in use. Steps and ladders must have slip resistant treads and handrails on both sides unless there are 4 or fewer steps and/or the steps run the entire width of the pool. The pool and equipment must be equipped to be emptied completely of water and the discharged water shall be disposed of in an approved manner that will not create a nuisance to adjoining property. This handout is a general summary. Pools must meet a host of construction requirements contained in the building code as well as all plumbing and electrical code requirements. Pools can be dangerous and it's important they be installed properly.

We will be glad to answer any questions you may have.