

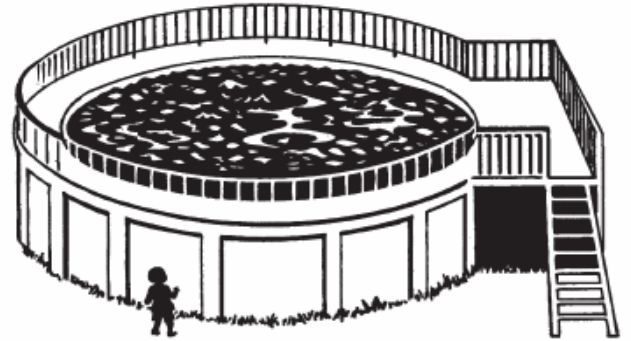
Above Ground Private Residential Pools and Spas

Important Information for Retailers

As a retailer of above-ground pools there is new and important information about pool barriers you need to be aware of and relay to your customers in order to prevent drownings in backyard pools.

Did You Know...

- Among children ages 1 to 4 years, most drownings happen in residential swimming pools. Most young children who drowned in pools were last seen in the home, had been out of sight less than 5 minutes, and were in the care of one or both parents at the time. (Washington State Dept of Health)
- Drowning is the second leading cause of injury related death for children ages 1-14 in the U.S.



Children are attracted to water. They can easily slip out the door to the pool or spa and fall in if there is no barrier. Once a child falls in, they usually don't scream for help, they simply slip under the water quietly.

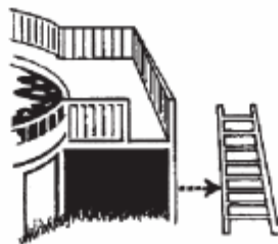
New Barrier Requirements for Pools and Spas in Washington State

There are some new Washington State building code requirements for residential pools and spas that will be required as of July 1st, 2007. These requirements are also applicable to above-ground pools. These pools are defined to contain water over 24 inches deep (2006 International Residential Code, Appendix G, Section AG102).

For Above Ground Pools

There are two barrier options for these types of pools to prevent children from gaining access to the pool. For most this will be locking, securing, or removing to prevent access.

1.) The steps/ ladder going up to the pool can be removed.



2.) The steps or ladder can be surrounded by a barrier



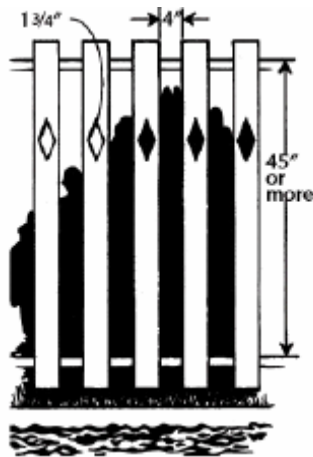
If the barrier option is used for the above-ground pool, the barrier must meet regulation standards as well. These are as follows:

- A barrier that is **at least** 4 feet high and surrounds the ladder (as shown above). The gate for this barrier needs to be out of the child's reach and self-closing/self latching:
 - the latch releasing mechanism for the gate should be **at least 3 inches below the top of the gate on the side facing the pool.**
 - the gate should not have an opening **greater than ½ inch** within **18 inches** of the latch releasing mechanism.

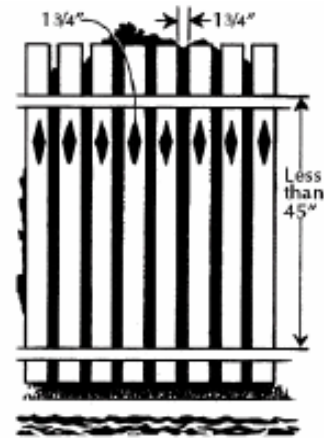
Examples of fences that meet the regulations:

a) Solid barriers/ fences that are **at least** 48 inches high with gaps between the fence and ground less than 2 inches.

b.) Barriers and fences with vertical spacing:



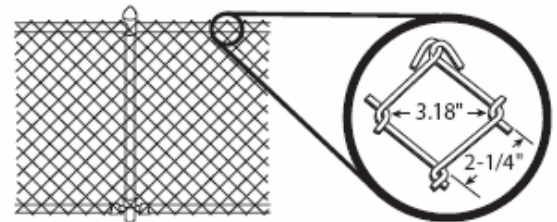
If top of horizontal members are **45 inches or more** then the vertical members cannot be more than **4 inches**.



If top of horizontal members are **less than 45 inches** then the vertical members cannot be more than **1 3/4 inches**.

c.) Chain link or mesh fences:

The **maximum** mesh size for these types of fences is **2.25 inches diagonally and 3.18 inches across horizontally**. Using slats in chain link type fences can help reduce the ability for a child to climb over.



d.) Self-latching/ self-closing gates: *please see above for specific measurements of latch releasing mechanisms.*

Please be sure to pass this information on to customers who purchase above-ground pools from your store. Barriers for pools are required as part of a new state-wide regulation and can help prevent backyard drownings among children.

For more information please contact your **local building official** -

<http://www.wabo.org/jurisdiction/map.html> or the **Washington State Building Code Council** - <http://www.sbccc.wa.gov/sbcccindx.html>