



**CITY OF BENBROOK SWIMMING POOL BARRIERS,
BUILDING CODE & ORDINANCE REQUIRMENTS**

1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 60 inches above grade, measured on the side of the barrier, which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches, measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the pool. The maximum vertical clearance at the bottom of the barrier may be increased to 4 inches when grade is a solid surface such as a concrete deck, or, when the barrier is mounted on the top of the above ground pool structure. When barriers have horizontal members spaced less than 45 inches apart, the horizontal members shall be placed on the poolside of the barrier. Any decorative design work on the side away from the swimming pool, such as protrusions, indentations, or cutouts, which render the barrier easily climbable, is prohibited.
2. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a one and three-quarter $1 \frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter sphere. This is about the size of a golf ball.

EXCEPTIONS: (1) When vertical spacing between such openings is 45 inches or more, the opening size may be increased such that the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere is not allowed. (2) For fencing composed of vertical and horizontal members, the spacing between vertical members may be increased up to 4-inches when the distance between the tops of horizontal members is 45-inches or more.

3. Chain link fences used as the barrier shall not be less than 11 gauge.
4. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of items 1 through 3. Pedestrian access gates shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate; (1) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the barrier at least 3 inches below the top of the gate, and (2) the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than one-half ($1/2$) inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism. Pedestrian gates shall swing away from the pool. Any gates, other than pedestrian access gates, shall be equipped with lockable hardware or padlocks, and shall remain locked at all times when not in use.
5. Where a wall of a Group R, Division – 3 Occupancy dwelling unit serves as part of the barrier and contains door openings between the dwelling unit and the outdoor swimming pool, which provide direct access to the pool, a separation

fence meeting the requirements of items 1, 2, 3, and 4, of Section 421.1 shall be provided.

EXCEPTION: WHEN APPROVED IN WRITING BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL, ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MAY BE USED:

- a. Self closing and self latching devices installed on all doors with direct access to the pool with the release mechanism located a minimum of 54 inches above the floor.
- b. An alarm installed on all doors with direct access to the pool. The alarm shall sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds, immediately after the door and its screen, if present, are opened, and be capable of providing a sound pressure level of not less than 85 dab when measured indoors at 10 feet. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm system shall be equipped with a manual means, such as a touchpad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last no longer than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch shall be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door.
- c. Other means of protection may be acceptable so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than that afforded by any of the devices described above.

AS STATED ABOVE, ANY EXCEPTION TO THIS ORIDINANCE MUST BE APPROVED IN WRITING BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL IN ORDER TO BE DEEMED ACCEPTABLE.

6. Where an above ground pool structure is used as a barrier, or, where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps, then; (1) the ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access, or (2) the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of items 1 through 5. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked, or removed, any opening created shall be protected by a barrier complying with items 1 through 5.
7. The sides of the swimming pool, meaning the water line of the pool, shall be no less than a distance of 5 feet from any building with out an engineer's approval certificate.
8. Where any porting of a deck or any swimming pool accessory encroaches into a utility easement, an approval letter will be required from the appropriate authority (utility companies).