

Frequently Asked Questions about Pools

Q: What is considered a pool?

A: "Swimming pool" means a structure or other device either permanent or portable, designed or used for swimming or recreational bathing, containing or capable of containing water to a depth of 24 inches or more at any point or containing more than 100 cubic feet of water when filled to capacity. Such term includes the sides and bottom and other structural supports of such pool and its equipment, appurtenances and accessory structures and devices, if any.

Q: Is a portable or inflatable pool considered a pool?

A: In recent years, many local discount stores have started selling portable or inflatable swimming pools. All pool regulations do apply to these portable or inflatable swimming pools, if the swimming pool is either more than 24 inches high or capable of containing more than 100 cubic feet of water. If you have any questions about whether these regulations apply to a particular portable or inflatable swimming pool, please contact the Building Department at 440-826-5812 prior to installing or purchasing the swimming pool. The photos below are examples of portable or inflatable pools that are considered pools and subject to all pool regulations.

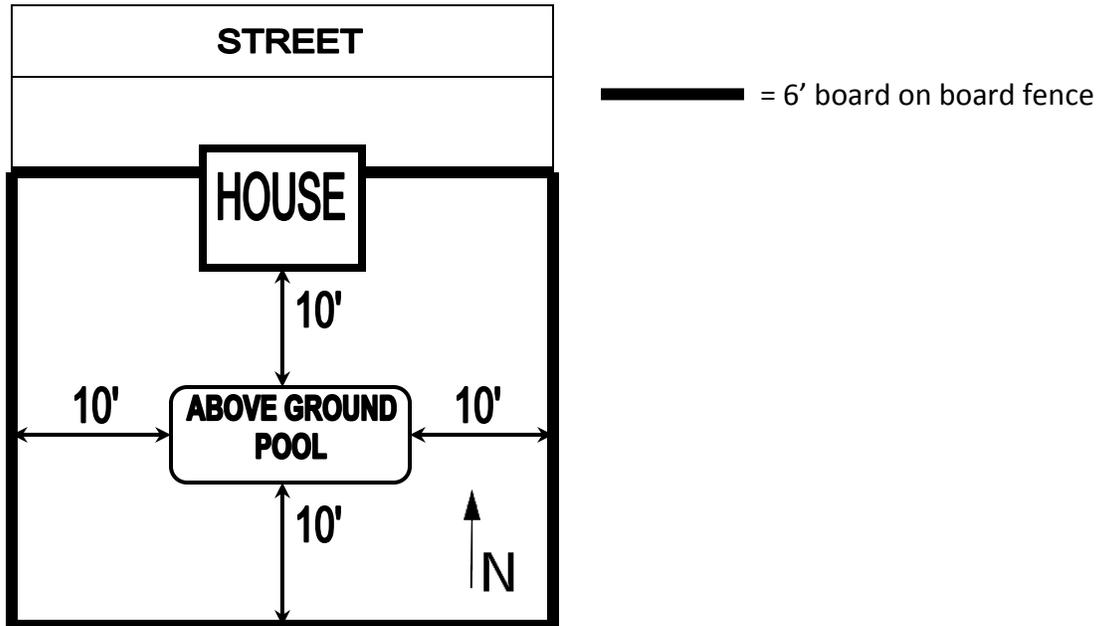


Q: Do I need a permit to install a pool?

A: Yes. You will need a Residential Building Permit to install a pool. You may also need a Residential Electrical Permit as well. Please check the Building Department to determine which permits are necessary. Permit applications are available online or at City Hall.

Q: What information do I need to submit to get a pool permit?

A: You will need to complete a Residential Building Permit Application. In addition, you will need to submit a plot plan showing property lines, where the pool will be located (including distances) and the type of pool you wish to install. See sample plot plan below.



Q: Who should pull the permit?

A: If the property owner is installing the pool, the property owner should pull the permit. If a pool company or a contractor is installing the pool, the pool company or the contractor should pull the permit.

Q: How long does it take to obtain a permit?

A: Once you've completed the Residential Building Permit Application and submitted all of the necessary information, it will take a couple of days for the Chief Building Official to review the permit application.

Q: Can I install the pool in the front yard?

A. No. All pools must be installed in the rear yard

Q: How far does the pool have to be setback from my property lines?

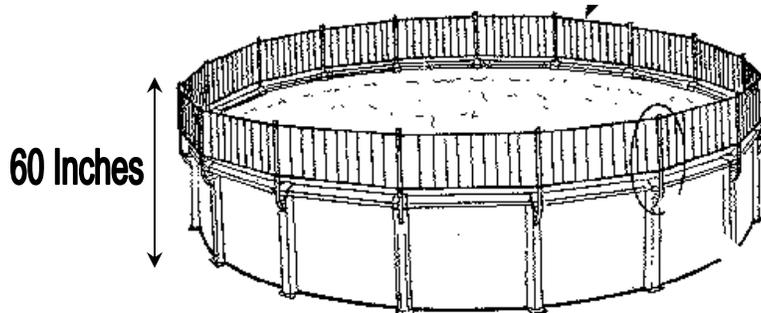
A: All pools must be setback at least ten feet from a side or rear property line.

Q: Do I need a fence or other enclosure around a pool?

A: Yes. Every pool must be enclosed by a fence or wall of sturdy construction built to a height of at least 60 inches. Each gate, which is a part of the wall or fence, must be constructed so to automatically close to a locked position.

Q: Can I attach a fence to the top of my above-ground pool and still comply with the enclosure requirements?

A: Yes. It is permissible to add a small fence to the top of an above-ground pool to satisfy the fence requirements, so long as, the height of the above-ground pool and the fence when measured together are at least 60 inches in height, see diagram below. An automatically closing and locking gate is still required.



Q: Is there anything I need to know about covering my pool for the winter?

A: When covering a pool at the end of the season, the pool cover must be constructed so as to prevent standing water from collecting on the surface of the cover, see picture below.

