

Pool Barriers

Barriers are not childproof, but they provide layers of protection for a child when there is a lapse in adult supervision. Barriers give parents additional time to find a child before the unexpected can occur.

Barriers include a fence or wall, door alarms for the house, and a power safety cover over the pool. Use the following recommendations as a guide.

The state of Connecticut has adopted the pool barrier requirements of the 2021 International Pool and Spa Code.

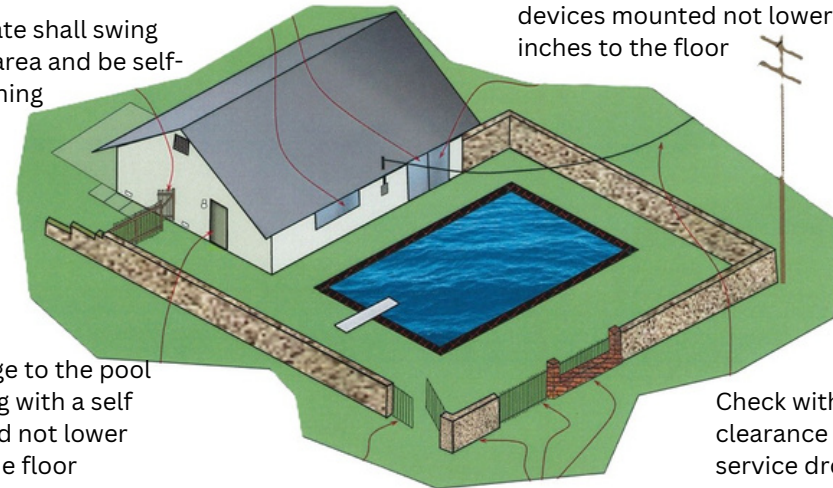
Operable windows having a sill height of less than 48 inches above the indoor finished floor shall have an alarm that produces an audible warning when the window or screens are opened. The alarm shall be listed and labeled as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017

Doors providing direct access from the home to the pool area shall be equipped with exit alarms

-OR-

with self-closing and self-latching devices mounted not lower than 54 inches to the floor

Pedestrian access gate shall swing away from the pool area and be self-closing and self-latching



The door from the garage to the pool area shall be self-closing with a self-latching device mounted not lower than 54 inches above the floor

Check with Public Utilities for clearance information for service drops

Double gates shall have not fewer than one leaf secured in place and the other leaf shall have a self-latching device and shall be equipped with a padlock and shall remain locked at all times when not in use.

4' 0" minimum fence height (as measured from the side OPPOSITE the pool) ALL pool fences barriers must be non-climbable

Windsor Building Department

275 Broad St.
Windsor, CT 06095
860-285-1960

Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday
8 am - 5 pm

It is the responsibility of the permit holder of the permit holder's representative to notify the city when the stages of construction are reached that require an inspection. All inspections need to be requested 48 hours prior by calling the Building Department at 860-285-1960, 8 am - 5 pm, Monday- Friday.

The information contained within this bulletin is the most common needed to obtain a permit and is not representative of all the conditions that may be encountered during the construction of your project.

Barrier Requirements

- 1. Barrier height and clearances:** The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 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 swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an above-ground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure, or mounted on top of the pool structure, and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches. **(See Figures 2 and 4)**
- 2. Openings:** Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter sphere. **(See Figure 2)**
- 3. Solid Barrier Surfaces:** Solid barriers which do not have openings shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints. **(See Figure 3)**
- 4. Closely spaced horizontal members:** Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is **less than 45 inches**, the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pools side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1 3/4 inches in width **(See Figures 2, 4,& 6)**. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 3/4 inches in width **(See Figures 5 & 6)**.

*A successful pool barrier prevents a child from getting **OVER, UNDER or THROUGH** and keeps the child from gaining access to the pool except when supervising adults are present.*

Latch may be located on the inside or outside of the gate if it is 54" minimum above finished grade

If latch is less than 54" above finished grade, latch shall be located on the inside, 3" below the top, and no opening greater than 1/2" shall be located within 18" of latch

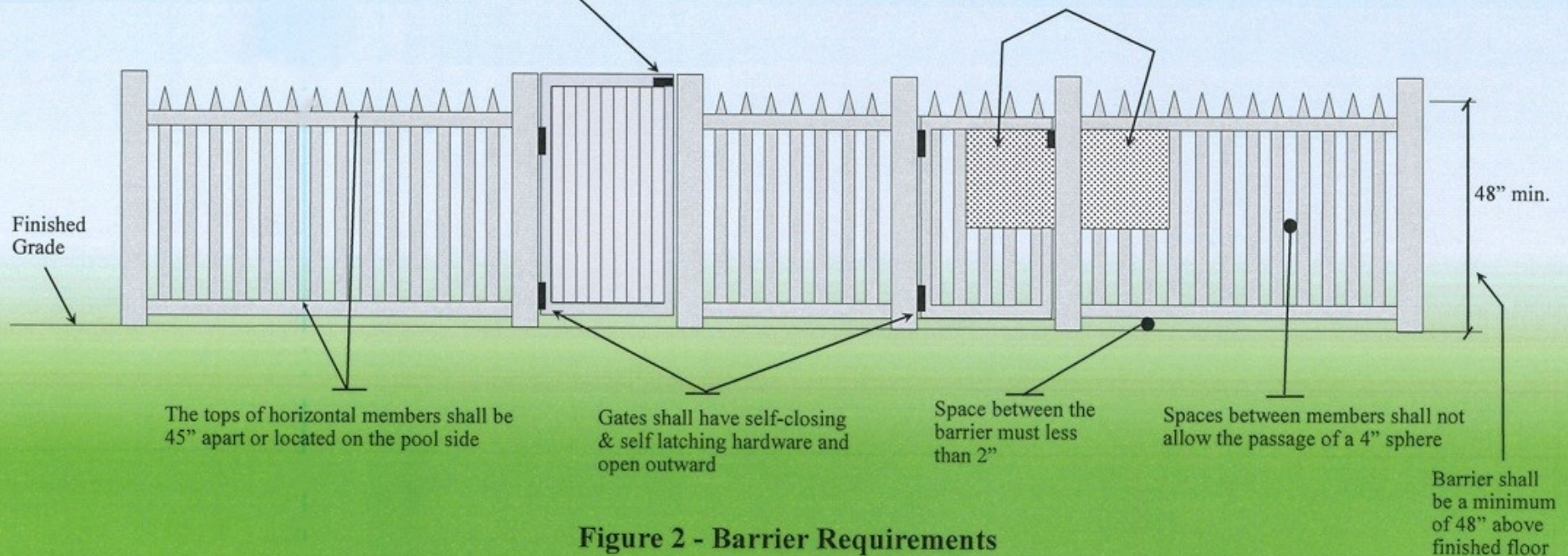
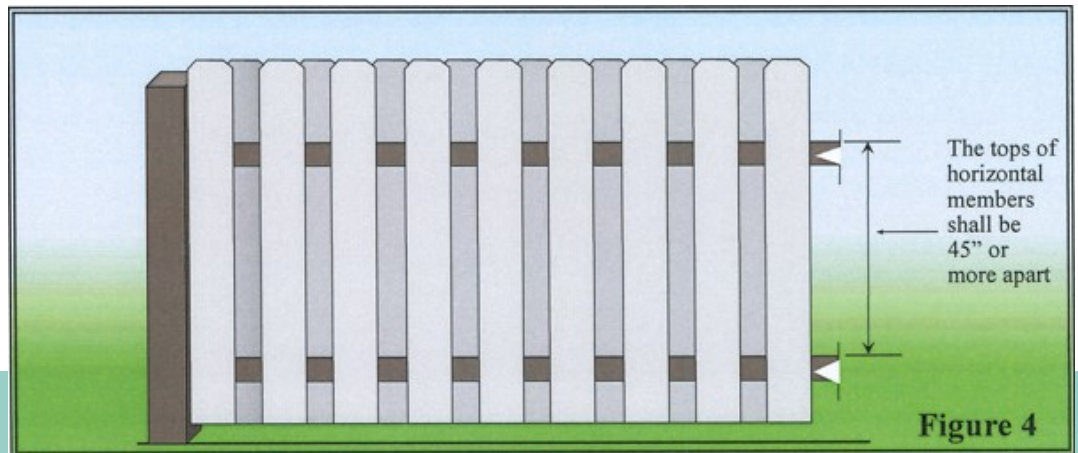
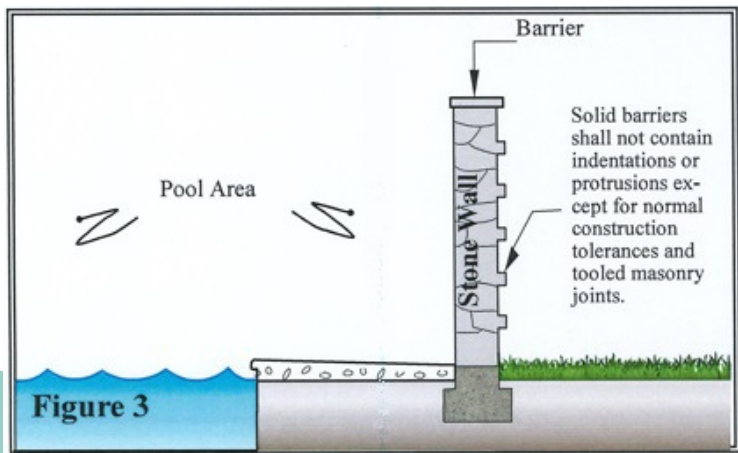
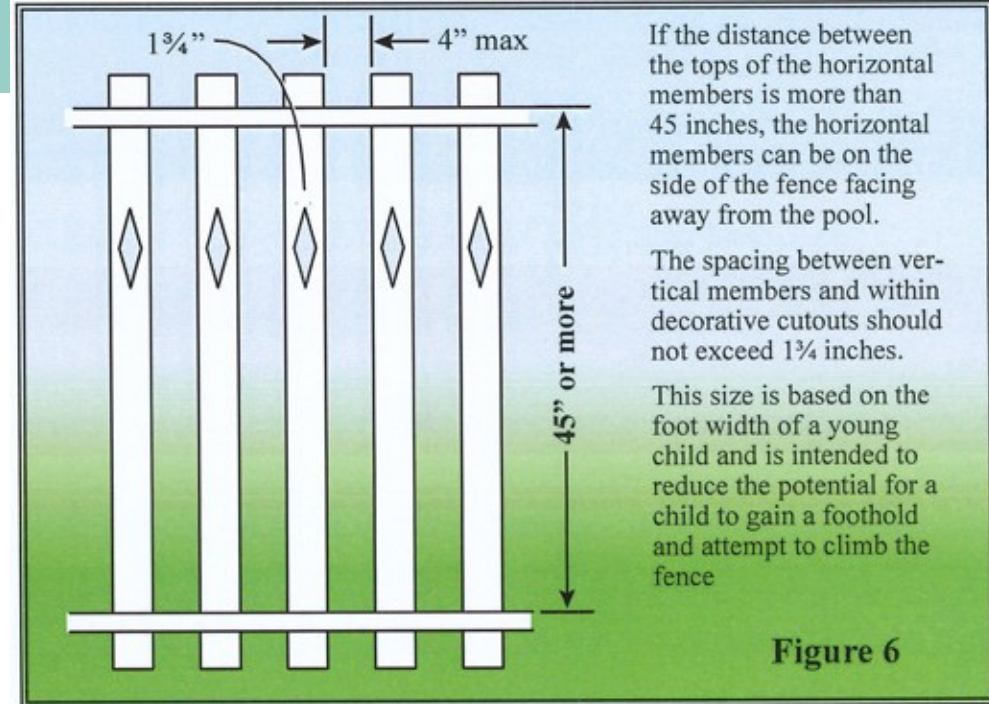
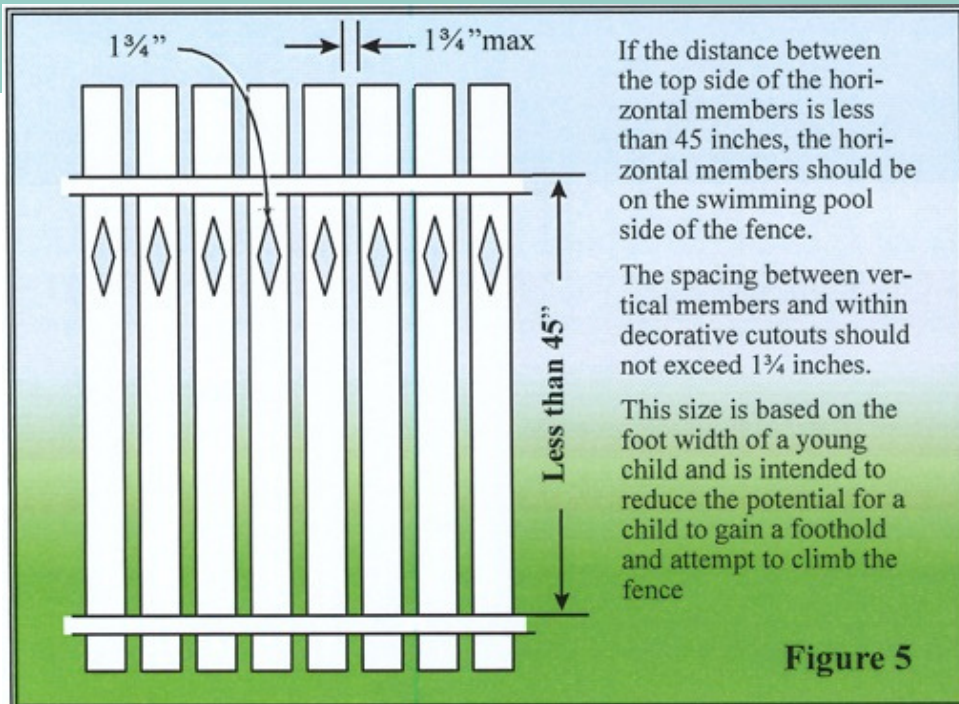


Figure 2 - Barrier Requirements



Widely Spaced Horizontal Members

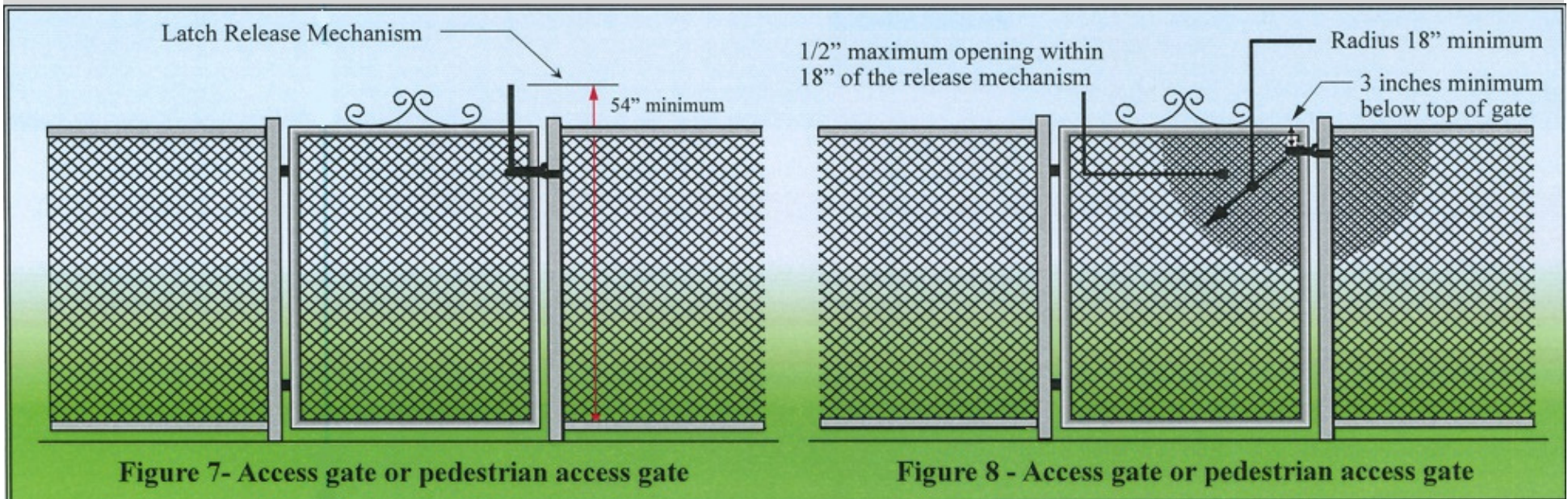
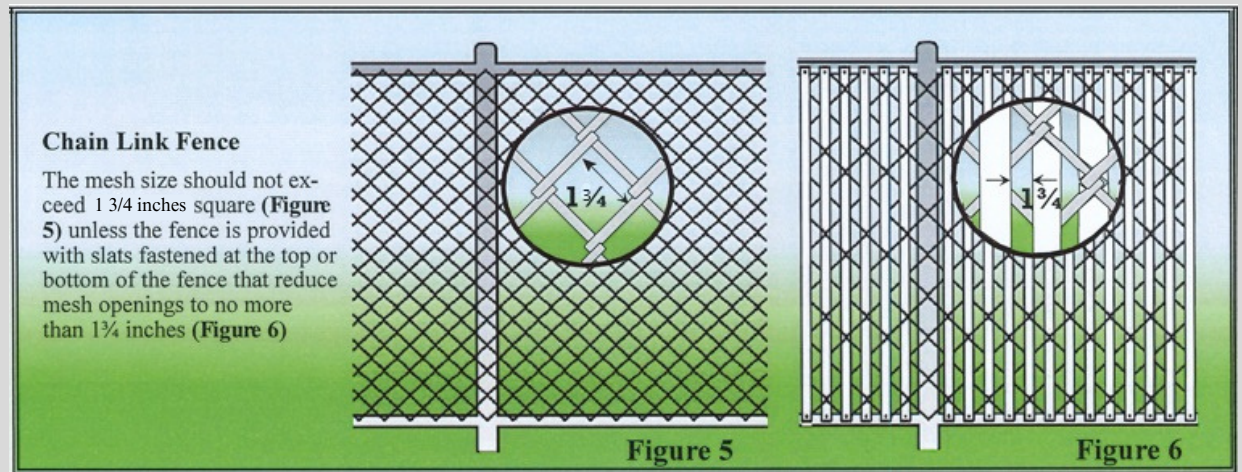
Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches or more, spacing between vertical members shall be not greater than 4 inches (**See Figures 2, 4, and 6**). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 3/4 inches in width. (**See Figures 5 and 6**)



Access Gates

An outdoor private swimming pool, including an in-ground, above-ground, or on-ground pool, hot tub, or spa shall be provided with a barrier which shall comply with the following:

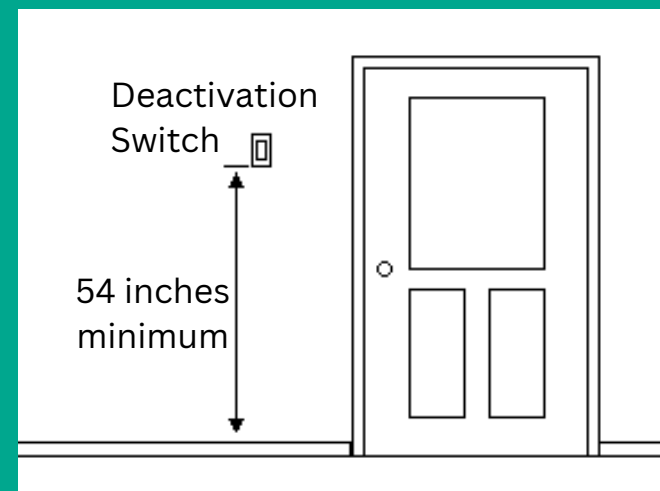
- Access gates shall comply with the requirements for a barrier and will be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outwards away from the pool and shall be both **self-closing** and **self-latching**. (See Figures 2, 7, & 9)
- Gates other than pedestrian access gates (vehicle entrances, etc.) shall have a **self-latching** device. (See Figure 10)
- Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate:
 - (a) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate; and
 - (b) the gate and barrier shall not have an opening greater than 1/2 inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism. (See Figures 8 & 2)

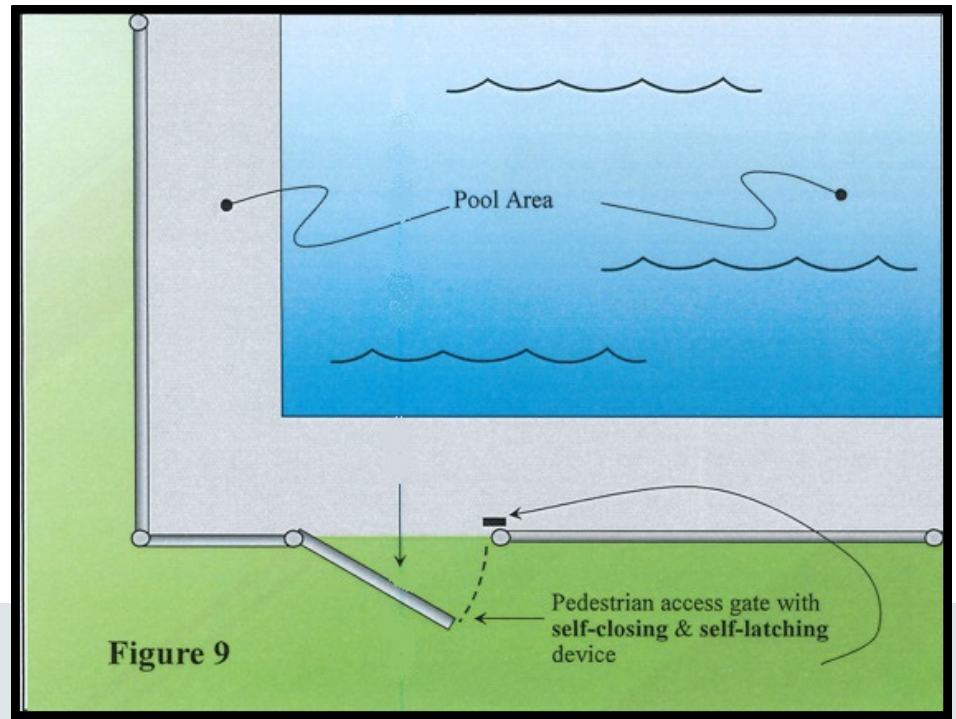
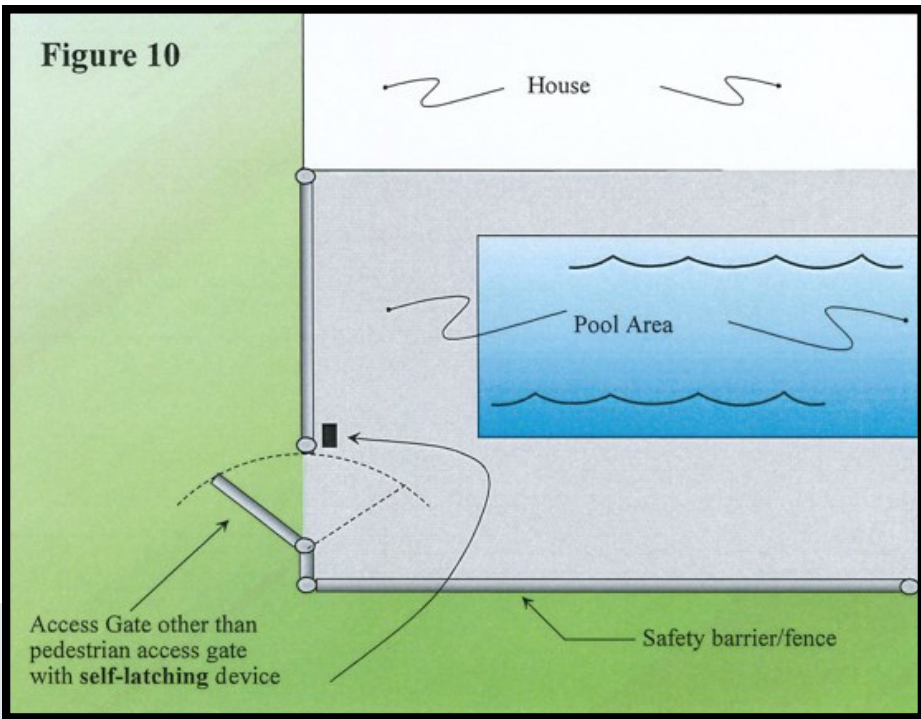


When a Dwelling Unit Serves as Part of the Pool Barrier

Where a wall of a dwelling or structure serves as part of the barrier and where doors, gates or windows provide direct access to the pool or spa through that wall, one of the following shall be required:

1. Operable windows having a sill height of less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above the indoor finished floor, doors and gates shall have an alarm that produces an audible warning when the window, door or their screens are opened. The alarm shall be *listed* and labeled as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017.
2. In dwellings not required to be Accessible units, Type A units or Type B units, the operable parts of the alarm deactivation switches shall be located at not less than 54 inches (1372 mm) above the finished floor.
3. In dwellings that are required to be Accessible units, Type A units or Type B units, the operable parts of the alarm deactivation switches shall be located not greater than 54 inches (1372 mm) and not less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above the finished floor.
4. In structures other than dwellings, the operable parts of the alarm deactivation switches shall be located not greater than 54 inches (1372 mm) and not less than 48 inches (1220 mm) above the finished floor.
5. A *safety cover* that is *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with ASTM F1346 is installed for the pools and spas.
6. An *approved* means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, is provided. Such means of protection shall provide a degree of protection that is not less than the protection afforded by Item 1 or 2.





Above Ground Pools

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 the ladder or steps either shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access, or the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier that meets the barrier requirements. (**See Figure 12**) When the ladder or steps are secured, locked, or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.

