



SWIMMING POOLS

1. Definition

A “swimming pool” is any outdoor enclosure located at a private residence (a) designed, intended, or used for the containment of water, whether construction below ground level or above ground level, (b) having a surface area of one hundred (100) square feet or more and a depth of eighteen (18) inches or more, and (c) which is designed, intended, or used for swimming, wading, or other recreational use by the owner or tenant of the property upon which the pool is constructed, or by their family or invited guests without payment of a fee.

2. Permit Required

- a. All pool installations require a building permit.
- b. The application for a permit must include the following:
 - i. Complete plans and specifications for the construction of the pool;
 - ii. A site plan showing the distance of the proposed swimming pool from the property lines; existing structures on the lot, including the house, garage and fences; trees; overhead and underground wiring; utility easements; and on-site sewer system; and other significant features;
 - iii. The proposed location of pumps, motors, electrical power source, if any, flushing and drainage outlets, and other operational features; and
 - iv. Location and specifications of protective fencing.

3. Fencing

- a. Height. Pools are to have fencing with a minimum height of four (4) feet and a maximum distance between the ground and bottom of the fence of three (3) inches.
- b. Gate. Any gate must be self-closing and self-locking. The latch shall be no less than four (4) feet above the ground level and shall be so constructed and placed as to be inaccessible to small children. All gates shall be locked when the pool is not in use or is unattended by an adult who knows how to swim.
- c. Materials. Durable wood, masonry, or coated no-corrosive metal, or a combination thereof, are acceptable materials for construction of a fence. The fence must be so constructed that it is not climbable by small children. The fence may not block the view of the pool from the house.
- d. Installation. The fence shall be completely installed before filling the pool.
- e. Aboveground Pools. The walls of an aboveground pool may serve as the fence, if four (4) feet above ground level. However, any access to the permanent ladder or stairs must be fenced.

4. Construction Requirements

- a. Hazard. Private swimming pools shall be constructed so as to avoid hazard or damage the occupants of the subject property or the occupants of adjacent property.
- b. Minimum Requirements.
 - i. No pool shall be located closer to any underground or overhead utility line than allowed by the National Electrical Code and other applicable codes.
 - ii. No pool may be located within any public or private utility easement, ingress or egress easement, drainage way, wetland, or other location in which it will represent a threat to the natural environment.
 - iii. In areas zoned or used for residential purposes, pools, pool decks, filtration equipment, and other pool items are prohibited in the front yard and in the side-yard setback. Pools shall not be located within ten (10) feet of any property line or any principal structure.

5. Miscellaneous Requirements

- a. Conduct. The conduct of persons and the operation of pools is the responsibility of the owner or the tenant thereof, and such conduct of persons and operation of the pool shall be done in such a manner so as to avoid any nuisance or breach of peace.
- b. Drainage. All back flushing water or pool drainage water shall be directed onto the property of the owner or onto approved drainage ways. Drainage onto public streets or other public drainage ways requires a permit from the director of public works.
- c. Lighting. Any outdoor lighting of the pool may not spill or shine upon adjacent properties. For all underground pool lights and above ground plug-in motors, compliance with the Electrical Code is required.
- d. Filling. The filling of pools from fire hydrants or other public facilities is prohibited without prior approval of the director of Shakopee Public Utilities.
- e. Equipment. U.C. Coast Guard-approved equipment such as life jackets, life preservers, and a shepherd's crook, is required at the pool site.