



RESIDENTIAL POOLS FOR SAFE OPERATION

Code Enforcement & Public Health

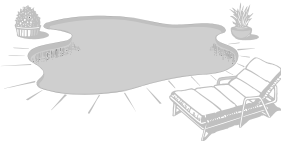
5200 - 85th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 (763) 493-8070, Fax (763) 493-8171, TDD (763) 493-8392



While pools can be relaxing, poorly maintained pools can be costly, create unsafe and unhealthful conditions, and be a nuisance to the neighbors. Although residential pools do not require a license or routine inspections from the city, they must comply with city ordinances. The following information will help you safely enjoy your pool.

Pools

A pool is any structure, chamber, or tank containing an artificial body of water for swimming, diving, relaxation, or recreational use including special purpose pools and wading pools.



Construction or Alteration

Contact the city before installing, performing major alterations, or relocating a pool.

- Building permits are required for pools over 5,000 gallons or if plumbing is connected to a potable water supply or sanitary sewer.
- Contact the State Board of Electricity for electrical permits. (651) 642-0800
- Contact the Building Department for further information. (763) 493-8091

Setbacks

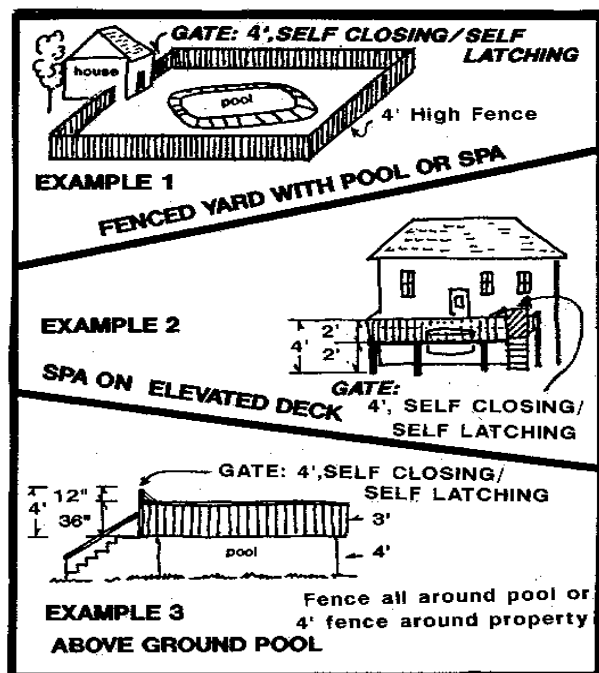
A survey is recommended to ensure your pool installation will meet all required setbacks.

- All pools, decks, patios or structures must be at least 5 feet from the property line.
- Pools may not be located within 10 feet of any overhead power service.
- Pools and any related structures may not be installed over a property easement.

Fencing

Effective barriers are required for pools over 24 inches deep.

- Permits are required for fences over 6 feet high.
- Materials must be durable and corrosion or decay resistant.
- Barriers must be at least 4 feet high.
- The maximum space between the fence and ground is 4 inches.
- The maximum space between openings and vertical spaces is 4 inches.
- Self-closing and self-latching gates are required. Latches must be at least 42 inches above the ground.
- Maximum gate width is 5 feet.
- Above ground pools where the wall is at least 4 feet high may serve as the fence. However, the pool access must be fenced or gated to meet these requirements.



Maintenance

- Pool water must be filtered and disinfected during warm weather months.
- The main drain should always be visible. Cloudy water indicates improper water balance and creates a safety hazard for pool users.
- Abandoned or unmaintained pools and equipment are considered a public nuisance.
- Small “kiddy pools” must be kept clean and the water changed or drained so as not to create an environment for breeding mosquitoes, (at least once a week).

Noise and Lighting

- The City Ordinance prohibits loud sounds that disturb the peace between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.
- Lighting is limited to illumination of your property. City Ordinance sets standards for the amount of light that may spill over onto adjacent property.

Draining Pools

- All chemical levels should be neutral before draining. Draining pool water with excessive chemical levels is considered pollution.
- Connection or drainage to the sanitary sewer is prohibited.
- Pools may be drained to the closest Public Street or storm sewer.
- Rate of drainage should be regulated to prevent damage to public or private property.

Proper Handling of Chemicals

Pool chemicals can be dangerous if improperly handled. Some pool chemicals can react with others if accidentally spilled, causing fumes or fire. The following safeguards should be considered when handling pool chemicals.

- Read the labels and follow the manufacturers’ directions.



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- Store chemicals in tightly covered containers, in a cool dark place, off the floor, safe from water sources, and separate from other chemicals.
- Unused chemicals and empty containers should be disposed of properly. If you have excess chemicals that cannot be used up in your pool, they may be taken to the Hennepin County Drop-Off Center in Brooklyn Park, 8100 Jefferson Highway N. (763) 348-6500

Safe Pool Operation

Provide proper supervision when children are present in the pool area. Flotation devices do not replace proper supervision.

- Swim with others. A second person should be available in an emergency. It is a good idea to provide life saving equipment like a ring buoy or a shepherd’s hook.
- Keep glass out of the pool area.
- Maintain proper pool water (chemical) balance. Chemical levels should be checked frequently to ensure proper balance.
- There are several different disinfectants; chlorine is the most common. Chlorine levels should be between .5 and 5 ppm (parts per million). This may vary depending on the levels of other chemicals and water temperature.
- Know the volume of your pool. The amount of chemicals needed depends on the number of gallons of your pool. Overuse of chemicals is unnecessary and costly.
- Improper chemical levels in pool water can cause skin or eye irritation, damage pool surfaces or equipment, and allow disease-causing organisms to survive.
- Routinely backwash the filter to remove dirt, oils, and other materials that accumulates on the filter media.
- Asking people to shower with soap before entering the pool will reduce the amount of oils and dirt introduced into the water, reducing the demand for chlorine.

Pool Use Limitations

- People with contagious diseases should not use the pool. Bacterial rashes, gastrointestinal illnesses, and eye/ear/throat illnesses can be spread through pool use.
- Time in spas or whirlpools should be limited. Children and infant use of these pools should be restricted. People with heart disease, elevated blood pressure, pregnant women and other individuals with compromised health should consult their physician before using hot water pools.

Questions Answered

- Various pool companies are available to help repair, maintain, open, close, or otherwise assist you with your pool. Please check in the Yellow Pages.
- Questions regarding pool hazards or nuisances can be reported to the Code Enforcement and Public Health Division at (763) 493-8070.

Contacts and Resources

Code Enforcement and Public Health Division
763-493-8092

Building Department
763-488-6379

Minnesota Department of Health
651-201-4503

For information regarding the "Abigail Taylor Pool Safety Act" please call the MN Department of Health at 651-201-4503.

This brochure is intended only as a general guide. Other codes and ordinances may apply. You can reference ordinances at the city website by visiting www.brooklynpark.org