

Requirement checklist to obtain a Building Permit for a:

**RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOL / SPA**

(if over 24" deep)

- Completed two-page application (must be legible and signed) [2 COPIES]
- Land Use Permit (signed/approved by the Municipality) [2 COPIES]
- Site Plan (include all existing structures, proposed structure and their distances to all lot lines) [2 COPIES]
- Pool and Pump specifications (noting the type and construction of the actual pool) [2 COPIES]
- Deck plan if applicable (Required when attached to existing structure and/or over 30" high at any point around the perimeter, measured from ground to top of finished floor, additional permitting and inspections are required.) [2 SETS]
- Copy of Contractors Certificate of Insurance for Workers Compensation  
**OR**  
If doing the work yourself submit Workers Compensation Insurance Coverage Waiver  
*[refer to the attached document].*
- Driving directions from a known landmark or intersection

- ✓ After submitting all required documents your application will be reviewed.
- ✓ PMCA will contact you to let you know if your application has been approved or denied.
- ✓ When the project is approved you will be notified the Building Permit is ready. Prior to obtaining the building permit all charges, i.e. administrative, inspections fees must be paid.
- ✓ Be advised additional fees may be applied, throughout the project, for failed or missed inspections.

**Some additional information available if needed:**

**NFPA 70 - CREATING AN ELECTRICALLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR SWIMMING POOLS** (4 pages)

**POOLS, HOT TUBS, SPAS AND SIMILAR INSTALLATIONS by Mike Holt** (24 pages)

Please ask our staff or visit our website if additional information is needed.

# Swimming Pool Electrical and Barrier Requirements

## SECTION AG102 DEFINITIONS

**AG102.1 General.** For the purposes of these requirements, the terms used shall be defined as follows and as set forth in Chapter 2.

**ABOVE-GROUND/ON-GROUND POOL.** See "Swimming pool."

**BARRIER.** A fence, wall, building wall or combination thereof which completely surrounds the swimming pool and obstructs access to the swimming pool.

**HOT TUB.** See "Swimming pool."

**IN-GROUND POOL.** See "Swimming pool."

**RESIDENTIAL.** That which is situated on the premises of a detached one- or two-family dwelling or a one-family *townhouse* not more than three stories in height.

**SPA, NONPORTABLE.** See "Swimming pool."

**SPA, PORTABLE.** A nonpermanent structure intended for recreational bathing, in which all controls, water-heating and water-circulating *equipment* are an integral part of the product.

**SWIMMING POOL.** Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches (610 mm) deep. This includes in-ground, above-ground and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas.

**SWIMMING POOL, INDOOR.** A swimming pool which is totally contained within a structure and surrounded on all four sides by the walls of the enclosing structure.

**SWIMMING POOL, OUTDOOR.** Any swimming pool which is not an indoor pool.

## SECTION AG103: SWIMMING POOLS

**AG103.1 In-ground pools.** In-ground pools shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-5 as listed in Section AG108.

**AG103.2 Above-ground and on-ground pools.** Aboveground and on-ground pools shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-4 as listed in Section AG108.

**AG103.3 Pools in flood hazard areas.** In flood hazard areas established by Table R301.2(1), pools in coastal high hazard areas shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ASCE 24.

## SECTION AG105 BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

**AG105.1 Application.** The provisions of this chapter shall control the design of barriers for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. These design controls are intended to provide protection against potential drownings and near drownings by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

**AG105.2 Outdoor swimming pool.** An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground, above-ground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa shall be surrounded by a barrier which shall comply with the following:

1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches (1219 mm) 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 (51 mm) 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. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches (102 mm).
2. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.
3. Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.
4. 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 (1143 mm), the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 13/4 inches (44 mm) in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 13/4 inches (44 mm) in width.
5. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches (1143 mm) or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 13/4 inches (44 mm) in width.
6. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2 1/4-inch (57 mm) square unless the fence has slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to not more than 13/4 inches (44 mm).
7. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall not be more than 13/4 inches (44 mm).
8. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Section AG105.2, Items 1 through 7, and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism and openings shall comply with the following:
  - 8.1. The release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate; and
  - 8.2. The gate and barrier shall have no opening larger than 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism.
9. Where a wall of a *dwelling* serves as part of the barrier, one of the following conditions shall be met:
  - 9.1. The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F 1346; or
  - 9.2. Doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm shall be listed and *labeled* in accordance with UL 2017. The deactivation switch(es) shall be located at least 54 inches (1372 mm) above the threshold of the door; or

9.3. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are *approved* by the governing body, shall be acceptable as long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Item 9.1 or 9.2 described above.

10. 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:

10.1. The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access; or

10.2. The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of Section AG105.2, Items 1 through 9. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.

**AG105.3 Indoor swimming pool.** Walls surrounding an indoor swimming pool shall comply with Section AG105.2, Item 9.

**AG105.4 Prohibited locations.** Barriers shall be located to prohibit permanent structures, *equipment* or similar objects from being used to climb them.

**AG105.5 Barrier exceptions.** Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346, as listed in Section AG107, shall be exempt from the provisions of this appendix.

**PMCA Office Locations:** Monday to Friday 8 am to 4 pm

**Chambersburg Office:** 1013 Wayne Ave. Chambersburg, PA 17201 Phone: 717 496-4996

**Bedford Office:** 125 S. Richard Street, Suite 102, Bedford, PA 15522 Phone: 814 310-2326

**Somerset Office:** 510 Georgian Place, Somerset, PA 15501 Phone: 814 444-6112

**Adams Office:** 1895B York Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325 Phone: 717 321-9046

---

### When applying for a Building Permit you need the following:

- Fill out the appropriate application answering all questions applicable to your job. Application must be legible and signed. (2 copies)
  - If a portion of the application is not applicable to your project put a N/A on the line.
- A copy of the signed Land Use Permit from the Municipality (Borough or Township) (2 copies)
- A Site Plan showing the location of the existing improvements/structures on your property and approx. distances to all property lines, well, septic system, driveway, etc. Also show the location of the proposed construction. (2 copies)
- Drawings showing details of the construction you want to do. (2 copies)
- Copy of Contractors Certificate of Insurance for Workers Compensation **OR** if doing the work yourself submit Workers Compensation Insurance Coverage Waiver *[refer to the attached document]*.

---

### After Building Permit Application is submitted:

- After submitting all required documents your application and drawings will be reviewed.
- PMCA will contact you with an approval or denial.
- If approved, your permit will be issued. The inspection & administrative fees are due when you pick up the permit. You will also obtain a copy of your original application and stamped set of plans.

---

### After Building Permit is issued:

- The Building Permit placard and Municipal Placard are to be visible on site at all times during the construction process.
- To schedule an inspection call the office where your permit application was submitted or visit our website to schedule online. Be prepared to have your Permit Number, address and type of inspection you are requesting.
  - If you request an inspection BEFORE 3 pm, every effort is made to schedule the inspection for the next business day.
- The copy of your application and approved plans are to remain on site when the building inspectors come for inspections. Be advised: we cannot inspect if these are not on site and you may incur additional costs due to extra trip(s) by the inspector.

**✓ Checklist for the Site Plan to be provided with the Permit Application**

1. **Site plans are essential and must be clearly legible and reproducible regardless of the reason for requesting the permit.**
2. Use an 8 ½" X 11" sheet of paper at minimum.
3. After locating all the structures on your property show distances in feet to the lot lines and between the structures.

**Provide dimensions of the property getting the proposed improvement**

- Drawing of approx. property layout (Can use hand drawing, photocopy of survey, etc.)
- Acreage (Refer to deed or survey drawing)
- Approx. boundary dimensions (Can be from the deed, field measurement, or a survey drawing)
- Parcel Number (Not mandatory – obtained from deed or property tax notice)

**Existing Buildings / Structures with Corresponding Dimensions**

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| ○ Houses         | ○ Deck / Patios                                    |
| ○ Sheds          | ○ Other buildings or structures on the property    |
| ○ Barns          | ○ Location of on lot well and septic IF applicable |
| ○ Swimming Pools |  |

**Proposed Improvement(s)**

- Proposed Structure Dimensions (House, Shed, Barn, Addition, Deck, etc.)
- Location of Proposed Driveway and Sidewalk

**SAMPLE SITE PLAN ►**

