

**POOL BARRIER REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS/SPAS
CITY OF RICHARDSON
BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT**

Residential swimming pools, including 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. Refer to [Chapter 6, Article IV – Fences of the City of Richardson Code of Ordinances](#) and the [International Swimming Pool and Spa Code \(ISPSC\) as amended/adopted](#) for pool barrier requirements. No provisions exist for timed vehicular gate enclosures nor do any exist for mesh fabric fencing – All portions of the swimming pool/spa must be completely enclosed with a minimum 4' high, permanent, code compliant pool barrier.
2. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102mm) sphere.
3. Maximum opening size for chain link fences shall be a 2.25-inch (57 mm) square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to not more than 1.75 inches (44 mm).
4. 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 1.75 inches (44 mm).
5. A clear zone of not less than 36 inches between the exterior of the barrier and any permanent structures or equipment such as pumps filters and heaters that can be used to climb the barrier.
6. The pool or spa side of the required barrier shall be no less than 20 inches from the water's edge.
7. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 3 of the ISPSC and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Utility/service gates not intended for pedestrian use shall be locked and equipped with self-closing/self-latching devices. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching/self-closing 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:
 - A. 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
 - B. The gate and barrier shall have not opening greater than 0.5 inch (13 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism.
8. Where a wall of a dwelling serves a part of the barrier one of the following conditions shall be met:
 - A. 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 shall be located at least 54 inches (1372 mm) above the threshold of the door; or
 - B. 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 A or B described above.
9. Natural barriers used in a one- and two-family dwelling or townhouse. In the case where the pool or spa area abuts the edge of a lake or other natural body of water, public access is not permitted or allowed along the shoreline, and required barriers extend to and beyond the water's edge a minimum of eighteen (18) inches, a barrier is not required between the natural body of water shoreline and the pool or spa.
10. Indoor swimming pool. Walls surrounding an indoor swimming pool shall comply with Chapter 3 of the ISPSC.