



City of Austin
Building Department
507-437-9950
500 4th Ave NE
Austin, MN 55912

SWIMMING POOLS

AUSTIN CITY CODE SECTION 11.75

Subd. 6 Swimming Pools. A swimming pool shall include any permanent or portable pool, pond, lake or open tank not located within a completely enclosed building and containing or normally capable of containing water to a depth at any point greater than two feet. No swimming pool shall be allowed in any residential district except as an accessory use, and it must comply with the following conditions and requirements:

- A) **Exclusive Private Use.** The pool is intended to be used solely for the enjoyment of the occupants of the principal building of the property in which it is located and their guests.
- B) **Distance Requirements.** It may not be located in the required side yard or closer than eight feet to any property line of the property on which located, provided that pump, filter, and heater installation shall be located not closer than ten feet to any property line unless stationed in an enclosure.
- C) **Fencing.** The swimming pool on the entire property on which it is located shall be so walled or fenced to prevent uncontrolled access by children from the street or from adjacent properties. The wall or fence shall be not less than four feet in height, and shall be secured with a self-closing lockable gate.
- D) **Plot Drawing.** Provide plot drawing showing pool, decks, or other related structures. Plot drawing shall show structures and relation to property lines. Austin City Code Section 4.03

APPENDIX SECTION 421 - RECOMMENDATIONS

421.1 Outdoor Swimming Pool. An outdoor swimming pool shall be provided with a barrier that shall be installed, inspected and approved prior to plastering or filling with water. The barrier shall comply with the following:

1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches (1219 mm) (Austin City Code Section 11.75 requires 6 ft. high fence for pool barrier) above grade measured on the side of the barrier that 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 that faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance at the bottom of the barrier may be increased to 4 inches (102 mm) when grade is a solid surface such as a concrete deck, or when the barrier is mounted on the top of the aboveground pool structure. When barriers have horizontal members spaced less than 45 inches (1143 mm) apart, the horizontal members shall be placed on the pool side of the barrier. Any decorative design work on the side away from the swimming pool, such as protrusions, indentations or cutouts, which render the barrier easily climbable, is prohibited.

2. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 1 3/4-inch-diameter sphere.
EXCEPTIONS:
 1. When vertical spacing between such openings is 45 inches (1143 mm) or more, the opening size may be increased such that the passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere is not allowed.
 2. For fencing composed of vertical and horizontal members, the spacing between vertical members may be increased up to 4 inches (102 mm) when the distance between the tops of horizontal members is 45 inches (1143 mm) or more.
3. Chain link fences used as the barrier shall not be less than 11 gage.
4. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Items 1 through 3. Pedestrian access gates shall be self-closing and 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, (1) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the barrier at least 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate, and (2) the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism. Pedestrian gates shall swing away from the pool. Any gates other than pedestrian access gates shall be equipped with lockable hardware or padlocks and shall remain locked at all times when not in use.
5. Where a wall of a Group R, Division 3 Occupancy dwelling unit serves a part of the barrier and contains door openings between the dwelling unit and the outdoor swimming pool that provide direct access to the pool, a separation fence meeting the requirements of Items 1,2,3, and 4 of Section 421.1 shall be provided.
EXCEPTION: when approved by the building official, one of the following may be used:
 1. Self-closing and self-latching devices installed on all doors with direct access to the pool with the release mechanism located a minimum of 54 inches (1372 mm) above the floor.
 2. An alarm installed on all doors with direct access to the pool. The alarm shall sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds within seven seconds after the door and its screen, if present, are opened, and be capable of providing a sound pressure level of not less than 85 dBA when measured indoors at 10 feet (3048 mm). The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions.