

Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire, Emergency and Building Services
Information from the Office of State Building Inspector *cial*.

Installation of a new swimming pool REQUIRES application for a permit to the local building official when the pool depth will be over 24 inches deep. This permit requirement includes in-ground swimming pools, above-ground swimming pools, on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas.

Outdoor private swimming pools MUST comply with the State Building Code barrier and entrapment protection minimum requirements. The primary reason for compliance with these minimum code requirements is for preservation of individual's life safety. They provide an effective barrier around the pool area to reduce the potential for young children to gain uncontrolled access, and to provide a level of protection against possible entrapment at the pool suction inlets. In addition to the State Building Code swimming pool requirements Connecticut General Statute Section 29-265a has specific criteria for installation of a pool alarm prior to issuance of a building permit.

An inflatable swimming pool containing water over twenty-four inches deep is a relatively new product that has been made available to the Connecticut consumer. **The inflatable walls of an above grade inflatable swimming pool, (containing water over twenty-four inches deep), are not an effective pool barrier and require a pool barrier that is typically a fence enclosure.**

The 2005 State Building Code provides detailed provisions for barriers around swimming pools, along with entrapment protection for swimming pool and spa suction outlets. All newly installed swimming pools, hot tubs and spas must comply with the August 1, 2009 Amendments to the 2005 State Building Code.

These requirements address:

- minimum heights and maximum openings allowed in fences
- criteria for the fence gates and latches
- criteria for the means of direct entry into a pool area from the house
- criteria for the pool and spa suction outlet cover and grate
- minimum number and separation distance of suction outlets
- criteria for circulation systems equipped with atmospheric vacuum relief systems
- minimum and maximum depths for pool vacuum cleaner fittings
- criteria for power safety covers

Your local building official can provide you information and can answer your questions about the State Building Code and its relationship to swimming pools. If further clarification governing installation of swimming pools and the State Building Code is needed the Office of State Building Inspector can be contacted by telephone at (860)-685-8310.