

Mecklenburg County Public Health Swimming Pool Fence and Gate Guide

Swimming Pool – Fence and Gate Requirements

- Fence shall be at least 48” in height measured from the outside of the barrier from the ground.
- Barrier Horizontals
 - If distance between bottom horizontal to next horizontal measures 45” or greater, 4” or less between vertical members
 - If a pool was built prior to May 1, 2010, the distance between horizontals may range between 30” to 45” with openings no greater than 4”
 - If distance between bottom horizontal to next horizontal measures less than 45”, the horizontal must be on the inside of the barrier with no openings greater than 1.75” in width.
- Gates
 - Shall swing away from the pool and be self-closing, self-latching.
 - Gates built prior to May 1, 2010, may swing towards the pool where topography, landscape or emergency egress may prevent the gate from swinging away from the pool.
 - Shall meet all the requirements of the fencing rule including but not limited to 48” in height, 2” or less underneath measured from ground, 4” between vertical members, 45” between horizontals, etc.
- Gate Latches – One of Three Options
 - 54” measured from ground to top of latch.
 - If self-latching device is less than 54” from ground, the latch shall be located on the inside of the gate at least 3” below the top of the gate with no greater than ½” within 18” of the latch mechanism.
 - Meshing used around latch mechanism shall not exceed ½” x ½” opening.
 - Use of key, combination, or card reader to open. No height requirement and can be located on the outside of the gate.
- Doors – Doors leading on to a pool deck must be self-latching, self-closing or self-closing and protected by an audible alarm.
- Windows – Ground level windows shall be protected by audible alarm or may not open greater than 4” on to the pool deck.
- Chain Link Fencing – Mesh size must be 2.25” square.
- Footholds – Anything located on the gate/fence or directly outside the gate/fence (within 45”) that is less than 45” in height from the ground that a child may stand on to get over the fence (> ½” protrusions).
- Distance under Barrier – Measured from outside of the barrier.
 - 2” for pools built post May 1, 2010
 - 4” or less for pools built pre-May 1, 2010

*All pools built after May 1, 2010 must be in compliance with **ALL** items above. These are 4-point demerits and warrant failure of pre-permit inspection.*

All pools built prior to May 1, 2010 must be in compliance with items listed for Gates, Gate Latches, Doors and Windows. These are 4-point demerits and warrant failure of pre-permit inspection. All other items warrant demerits but no permit action.

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Wading Pool – Fence and Gate Requirements within Pool Barrier

- Fence shall be at least 48” in height measured from the inside of the barrier from the ground.
 - Wading pools fences built prior to 2000 may be 36” or greater in height measured from inside of the barrier.
- Barrier Horizontals
 - If distance between bottom horizontal to next horizontal measures 45” or greater, 4” or less between vertical members
 - If a pool was built prior to May 1, 2010, the distance between horizontals may range between 30” to 45” with openings no greater than 4”
 - If distance between bottom horizontal to next horizontal measures less than 45”, the horizontal must be on the inside of the barrier with no openings greater than 1.75” in width.
- Gates
 - Shall swing away from the large pool, opening into the wading pool.
 - Must be self-closing, self-latching.
 - Shall meet all the requirements of the fencing rule including but not limited to 48” in height, 2” or less underneath measured from ground, 4” between vertical members, 45” between horizontals, etc.
- Gate Latches – One of Three Options
 - 54” measured from ground to top of latch.
 - If self-latching device is less than 54” from ground, the latch shall be located on the outside of the gate at least 3” below the top of the gate with no greater than ½” within 18” of the latch mechanism.
 - Meshing used around latch mechanism shall not exceed ½” x ½” opening.
 - Use of key, combination, or card reader to open. No height requirement and can be located on the outside of the gate.
- Doors – Doors leading on to a pool deck must be self-latching, self-closing or self-closing and protected by an audible alarm.
- Windows – Ground level windows shall be protected by audible alarm or may not open greater than 4” on to the pool deck.
- Chain Link Fencing – Mesh size must be 2.25” square.
- Footholds – Anything located on the gate/fence or directly inside the gate/fence (within 45”) that is less than 45” in height from the ground that a child may stand on to get over the fence (> ½” protrusions).
- Distance under Barrier – Measured from inside of the barrier.
 - 2” for pools built post May 1, 2010
 - 4” or less for pools built pre-May 1, 2010

Standalone wading pools shall meet rule requirements of swimming pool barrier measuring from outside of pool barrier.

*All wading pools regardless of date of construction must be in compliance with **ALL** items above. These are 4-point demerits and warrant failure of pre-permit inspection*