Mecklenburg County Public Health
Swimming Pool Fence and Gate Guide

Swimming Pool – Fence and Gate Requirements

- Shall be at least 48” in height measured from the outside of the fence from ground
- Distance between vertical members – 4” or less
- Distance from bottom horizontal measured to next horizontal must be 45” or greater
  - Pools built prior to 2010, distance may be no less than 30”
- Gates
  - Shall swing away from the pool
  - Must be self-latching, self-closing
  - Gates built prior to 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, 45” between horizontals, 4” between vertical members, etc.
- Gate Latches
  - 54” measured from ground to bottom of latch;
  - If self-latching device is less than 54”, 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 (mesh – ½” x ½” or less required); or
  - Use of combination or card reader
- Doors – Doors leading on to pool deck must be self-latching, self-closing or protected by audible alarm
- Windows – Ground level windows shall be protected by audible alarm or may not open greater than 4” on to pool deck
- Chain Link Fence – Mesh size must be 2.25” square
- Footholds – Anything located on the gate/fence or directly outside the gate/fence less than 45” that someone can stand on to get over the fence (>1/2” protrusions)
- Distance Under Fence – measured from the outside of the fence
  - 2” for pools built after 2010
  - 4” or less for pools built prior to 2010

Note:

All pools built after 2010 must be in compliance with all items above. These items are 4-point demerits and warrant failure of pre-permit inspection or issuance of Intent to Suspends.

All pools built prior to 2010 must be in compliance with items Gates, Gate Latches, Doors and Windows. These items are 4-point demerits and warrant failure of pre-permit inspections or issuance of Intent to Suspends. All other items are items warrant demerits but no permit action shall be taken.
Mecklenburg County Public Health  
Wading Pool Fence and Gate Guide

Wading Pool – Fence Gate Requirements

☐ Shall be at least 48” in height measured from the outside of the fence from ground  
  o Wading pools built prior to 2000 may be 36” or greater in height measured from  
    outside of fence  
☐ Distance between vertical members – 4” or less  
☐ Distance from bottom horizontal measured to next horizontal must be 45” or greater  
  o Pools built prior to 2010, distance may be no less than 30”  
☐ Gates  
  o Shall swing away from the large pool, opening into the wading pool  
  o Must be self-latching, self-closing  
  o Shall meet all the requirements of the fencing rule including but not limited to 48”  
    in height, 2” or less underneath, 45” between horizontals, 4” between vertical  
    members, etc.  
☐ Gate Latches  
  o 54” measured from ground to bottom of latch;  
  o If self-latching device is less than 54”, 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 (mesh – ½” x ½” or less required); or  
  o Use of combination or card reader  
☐ Doors – Doors leading on to deck must be self-latching, self-closing or protected by  
  audible alarm  
☐ Windows – Ground level windows shall be protected by audible alarm or may not open  
  greater than 4” on to pool deck  
☐ Chain Link Fence – Mesh size must be 2.25” square  
☐ Footholds – Anything located on the gate/fence or directly outside the gate/fence less  
  than 45” that someone can stand on to get over the fence (>1/2” protrusions)  
☐ Distance Under Fence – measured from the outside of the fence  
  o 2” for pools built after 2010  
  o 4” or less for pools built prior to 2010

Note:

All wading pools regardless of date of construction must be in compliance with all items above. These items are 4-point demerits and warrant failure of pre-permit inspection or issuance of Intent to Suspends.