



# Residential Swimming Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs

Bulletin # 14

*Division of Building, Safety, and Inspection for 2015 International Codes*

## Permits

Permits are required for all Residential Swimming Pools in Pierce County per R105.1.

**IRC Section R105.2 Exception #7:** Prefabricated swimming pools that are less than 24 inches (610mm) deep.

All code references are from the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) (2015 Edition) unless noted otherwise.



## Barrier Requirements

**Sections 305.2.1 through 305.7 of the [International Swimming Pool and Spa Code](#):**

The provisions of this chapter shall control the design of barriers for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs requiring a permit. These design controls are intended to provide protection against potential drowning and near drowning by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs and apply to outdoor pools and spas as well as indoor swimming pools.

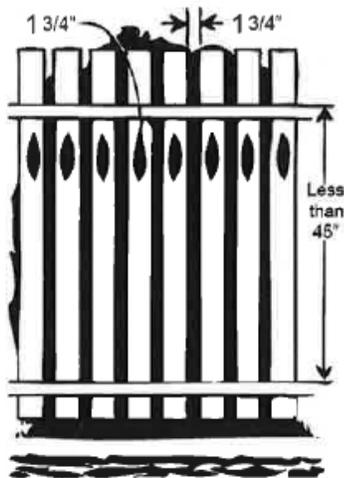
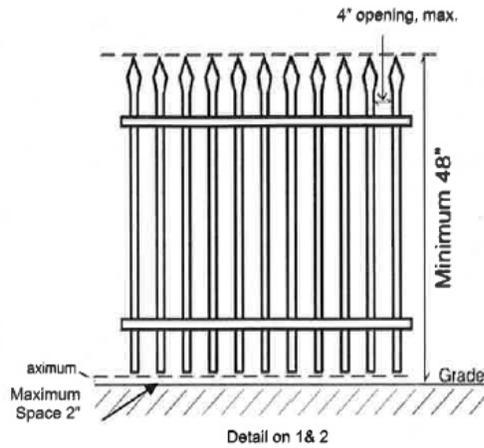
1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches (1219mm) above *grade* measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. Such height shall exist around the entire perimeter of the barrier and for a distance of 3 feet (914 mm) measured horizontally from the outside of the required barrier.
2. 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 which faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an above-ground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure, or mounted on top of the pool structure. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches (102 mm).
3. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4 inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.
4. Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.
5. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches (1143 mm), the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1-3/4 inches (44 mm) in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1-3/4 inches (44 mm) in width.

6. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches (1143 mm) or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1-3/4 inches (44 mm) in width.
7. Maximum mesh opening for chain link fences shall be a 1 3/4 inches (44 mm) unless the fence has slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to not more than 1-3/4 inches (44 mm).
8. 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 1-3/4 inches (44 mm).
9. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of sections 305.3.1 through 305.3.3 and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall have a self-latching device.
10. 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 no opening larger than 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism.
11. Section 305.4: Where a wall of a *dwelling* serves as part of the barrier, one of the following conditions shall be met:
  - A. Doors or windows with sill height less than 48" 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(es) shall be located at least 54 inches (1372 mm) above the threshold of the door.
  - B. The pool or spa shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F 1346.
  - C. 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.
12. Section 305.5 Where an above-ground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps:
  - A. The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access; or
  - B. The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of Section 305. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.

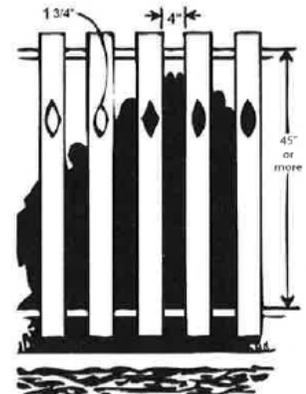
### **Setback Requirements**

All pools both exempt and permitted must meet current zoning requirements.

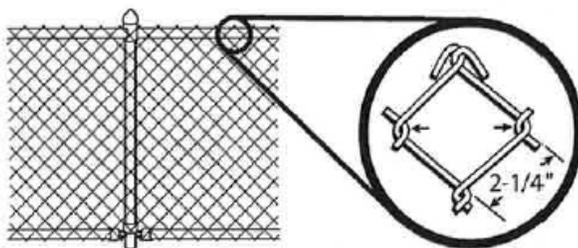
**For additional information call 253-798-3741  
Between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday - Friday**



Detail on 4 - barriers with horizontal members <45"

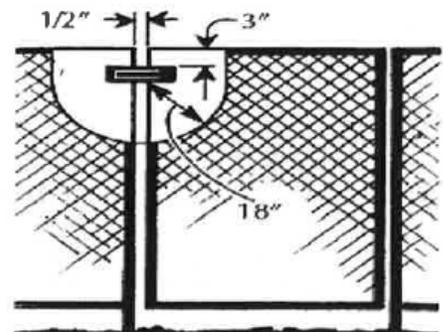


Detail on 5 - barriers with horizontal members >45"



Detail on 6 -chain link fence max mesh size.

Note: Placing slats in the fence will reduce the maximum required width to 1.75"



Detail on 8-Access Gate detail