MONTGOMERY COUNTY VIRGINIA
EST. 1776

BUILDING INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT
755 Roanoke Street, Suite 1D
Christiansburg, VA 24073-3173

POLICY/APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR POOLS & SPAS

Reference Virginia Construction Code 2018 Edition.

Pool & Spa permit applications shall include plans with the following information. A checklist is provided on the last page.

Print Property Address _____

1. Every pool and/or spa shall be fully enclosed by a barrier or fence in accordance to the Section 3109.1 of The Virginia Construction Code (VCC) 2018 Edition.
   Exception: Swimming pools with a power safety cover or spa with a safety cover complying with ASTM F 1346.
2. The barrier or fence shall comply with the following requirements in accordance to ISPSC 2018 edition of the code as referenced in the VCC in section 3109.1.

   A. Minimum height of 48" above exterior grade, measured from outside of the pool enclosure within 3 feet of the barrier (Ref. section 305.2.1(1) ISPSC).
   B. A maximum clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches (Ref. section 305.2.1(2) ISPSC)
   C. A maximum clearance between a solid surface and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches (Ref. section 305.2.1(3) ISPSC)
   D. Where the top of the pool or spa is above grade, the barrier shall be installed on grade or mounted on top of the pool or spa structure. (Ref. section 305.2.1(4) ISPSC)
   E. Openings in the barrier shall not allow the passage of a 4" sphere. (Ref. 305.2.2 ISPSC)
   F. Solid wall barriers shall not be climbable. (Ref. section 305.2.2.3 ISPSC)
   G. A maximum mesh size for "Chain Link" fence shall be a 1 ¾ inches square unless provided with slats to at the top and bottom which reduce the openings to not more than 1.75 inches. (Ref. section 305.2.7 ISPSC)
   H. Diagonal members shall form openings of no more than 1.75 inches. (Ref. section 305.2.8 ISPSC)
   I. Mesh fences other than chain link shall not be more than 1 inch above grade (Ref. section 305.2.4 (1) ISPSC)
   J. Where the barrier is composed of horizonal and vertical members the distance between the tops of the horizonal members exceed 45 inches the spacing of the vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches (Ref. section 305.2.6 ISPSC)
   K. Inground residential pool wall structure or a barrier mounted on top of an inground residential pool wall shall serve as a barrier if the following conditions

are met; where only the pool wall serves as the barrier, the top of the pool wall is not less than 48 inches in height above the outside grade level the entire perimeter of the pool. (Ref. 305.5 of the ISPSC)

L. Ladders or steps used as a means of access to the pool must be capable of being secured, locked, or removed to prevent access except where there is a barrier surrounding the access to the steps. (Ref. 305.5(3) of the ISPSC)

3. Gates within a barrier or fence shall comply with the following requirements (Ref. 305.3 of the ISPSC):
   - **A.** Gates shall remain locked when not in use. (Ref. section 305.3.1 ISPSC).
   - **B.** Gates shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device, be self-closing, and have a self-latching device. (Ref. section 305.3 ISPSC).
   - **C.** Where the release mechanism is self-latching; if the mechanism shall is less than 54" above the bottom of the gate, if the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3" below the top of the gate. (Ref.305.3 ISPSC)
   - **D.** All gates shall swing outward away from the pool area (Ref.305.3 ISPSC)

4. Where any wall of a dwelling serves as part of a pool/spa barrier and doors from the dwelling provide direct access to the pool, a drowning prevention safety feature shall be provided. Operable window shall have a sill height of 48 inches above the finished floor and doors provided with an alarm listed in accordance with UL 2017, a power safety cover that complies with ASTM F 1346, or other means of protection such as self-closing doors with latching devices, which are approved by the administrative authority, shall be accepted so long they provide the same degree of protection afforded by this section. (Ref. 305.4, 305.4.1, 305.4.2, 305.3 ISPSC)

5. Suction outlets shall be designed to produce circulation throughout the pool or spa. Suction outlets shall be protected against user entrapment. (Ref. 314.2 ISPSC)

6. Safety glazing is required in doors and windows, where the bottom edge of the glass is less than 60 inches above a walking surface and within 60 horizontally of the water's edge. *(Ref. section R308.4.5 of the Virginia Residential Code 2018 Edition)*

7. Door alarms shall comply with the following (Ref. U.S. Product Safety Commission):
   - **A.** An alarm shall produce an audible warning when any door and its screen, are opened.
   - **B.** The door alarm shall sound continuously for a minimum of thirty (30) seconds within seven (7) seconds after the door is opened and be capable of providing a sound pressure level of not less than 85 dba when measured indoor at 10 feet distance.

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C. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions.
D. The alarm shall be equipped with a manual means, such as a touchpad or switch to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last not more than fifteen (15) seconds.
E. The deactivation switch shall be located at least fifty-four (54) inches above the threshold of the door.

8. An alternate pool safety feature in lieu of an intermediate barrier, door alarms or self-closing device will be used. The following is the product information:

   A. Product Manufacturer: _____
   B. Product Name: _____
   C. Installation and coverage plan are attached.
   D. ASTM testing agency approval letter is attached

9. Structures or metal fences within 5 feet from pool or spa require electrical bonding (NFPA 70)

10. Overhead power lines shall comply with section 680-8 of the NFPA 70 2014 edition.

11. Electrical outlets installed in the area extending 20 feet from inside the pool or spa shall be GFI. (Ref. section 680.22(4) NFPA 70 2014 Edition)

12. Heating system shall comply with section M2006.1 and chapters 33 through 42 of the VRC 2018 Edition.

13. The swimming pool/spa shall have at least two circulation drains per pump that shall be hydraulically balanced and symmetrically plumbed through one or more “T” fittings, and that are separated by a distance of at least three feet in any dimension between the drains. (Applicable to new pool/spas only, (Ref. ANSI/APSP/ICC-7 2013)

14. Suction outlets that are less than 12 inches across shall be covered with ant entrapment grates, as specified in the ASME/ANSI Standard A 112.19.8, which cannot be removed except with the use of tools. Slots or openings in the grates or similar protective devices shall be of a shape, area, and arrangement that would prevent physical entrapment and would not pose any suction hazard to bathers. (Ref. ANSI/APSP/ICC-7 2013)

April 23, 2009/Revised January 2020

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Pools & Spas Plan Submittal Checklist

- ☐ Show all existing structures with distances to proposed pool/spa.
- ☐ Indicate proposed location of pool/spa, include dimensions
- ☐ Barrier minimum height of 48” above exterior grade.
- ☐ Maximum clearance between grade and the bottom of barrier shall be 2 inches
- ☐ Maximum clearance between a solid surface and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches.
- ☐ When top of the pool or spa is above grade, the barrier shall be installed on grade or mounted on top of the pool or spa structure.
- ☐ Openings in the barrier shall not allow the passage of a 4” sphere.
- ☐ Solid wall barriers shall not be climbable
- ☐ “Chain Link” fence shall be a 1 ¾ inches square unless provided with slats to at the top and bottom which reduce the openings to not more than 1.75 inches
- ☐ Diagonal members shall form openings of no more than 1.75 inches.
- ☐ Mesh fences other than chain link shall not be more than 1 inch above grade
- ☐ Ladders or steps used as a means of access to the pool must be capable of being secured, locked, or removed.
- ☐ Gates shall remain locked when not in use.
- ☐ Gates shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device, be self-closing, and have a self-latching device
- ☐ Where the release mechanism is self-latching; if the mechanism shall be less than 54" above the bottom of the gate, if the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3” below the top of the gate.
- ☐ All gates shall swing outward away from the pool area.
- ☐ Where any wall of a dwelling serves as part of a pool/spa barrier and doors from the dwelling provide direct access to the pool, a drowning prevention safety feature shall be provided.
- ☐ Suction outlets shall be designed to produce circulation throughout the pool or spa.

Both pages of document must be completed (see reverse)

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- ☐ Suction outlets shall be protected against user entrapment.
- ☐ Safety glazing is required in doors and windows, where the bottom edge of the glass is less than 60 inches above a walking surface and within 60 horizontally of the water's edge.
- ☐ Identify setbacks or easements and show distances.
- ☐ Location of affiliated equipment.
- ☐ Show existing & proposed decks.
- ☐ All overhead & underground utility lines/piping.
- ☐ Show existing & proposed electrical wiring, outlets, fixtures and switches within 20 feet of the proposed pool/spa.
- ☐ Spa/hot tubs are prohibited on decks or floors unless the floor or deck is designed specifically, for the loads imposed for the spa/tub.
- ☐ All structural details and calculations for steel or masonry pool structures shall be stamped and signed by an Engineer licensed in the state of Virginia.

Print Property Address _____

Signature of applicant _____Date_____

Permit Number_____ Accepted by _____