



## Swimming Pool Barrier Requirements

On January 1, 1998, Assembly Bill 3305, regarding swimming pool barrier, became law. The bill was approved by the Governor on September 25, 1996. The new law, HSC 115920-115929, was added to Chapter 5 of Part 10 of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code and relates to single family housing. This new law is more restrictive than previous County requirements.

**General Information** - "Swimming pool" or "pool" means any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 18 inches deep. "Swimming pool" includes in ground and above ground structures and includes, but not limited to, hot tubs, spas, portable spas, and non-portable wading pools.

### General Provisions -

Commencing January 1, 2018, when a building permit is issued for the construction of a new swimming pool or spa or the remodeling of an existing swimming pool or spa at a private single-family home, the respective swimming pool or spa shall be equipped with at least two of the following seven drowning prevention safety features:

- (1) An enclosure that meets the requirements of Section 115923 and isolates the swimming pool or spa from the private single-family home.
- (2) Removable mesh fencing that meets the ASTM International F2286 standard in conjunction with a gate that is self-closing and self-latching and can accommodate a key lockable device.
- (3) A manually operated or power-operated safety pool cover that is accompanied by a label verifying that the cover meets the specifications of the ASTM International F1346-23 standard.
- (4) Exit alarms on the private single-family home's **doors and windows** that provide direct access to the swimming pool or spa without any intervening enclosure. Whenever any door or window is opened or left ajar, exit alarms shall make either an audible, continuous alarm sound or a repeating verbal warning, such as a notification that "the door to the pool is open." An exit alarm may be battery operated or connected to the electrical wiring of the building.
- (5) A self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor on the private single-family home's doors providing direct access to the swimming pool or spa.
- (6) An alarm in good repair and operable as designed that, when placed in a swimming pool or spa, will sound upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. The alarm shall meet and be independently certified to the ASTM International F2208 standard that includes surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser, and infrared type alarms. A swimming protection alarm feature designed for individual use, including an alarm attached to a child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water, is not a qualifying drowning prevention safety feature. **Floating, tethered, or "buoy" alarms are do not meet this requirement.**
- (7) Other means of protection, if the degree of protection afforded is equal to or greater than that afforded by any of the features set forth above and has been independently verified by an approved testing laboratory as meeting standards for those features established by ASTM International, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, or another nationally

recognized standards development organization, and the feature is accompanied by a label verifying that the protection meets those standards.

(b) The requirements of subdivision (a) are not satisfied by any of the following:

(1) An exit alarm and a self-closing, self-latching device on the same door.

(2) An exit alarm and a door latch on separate doors.

(3) **A safety pool cover and an alarm described in paragraph (6) of subdivision (a).**

EXCEPTION: Hot tubs or spas with locking safety covers that comply with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM F1346).

**Consumer Notice Requirements:**

Any person entering into an agreement to build a swimming pool or spa, or to engage in permitted work on a pool or spa covered by this article, shall give the consumer notice of the requirements of this article.

Pursuant to existing law, the Department of Health Services shall have available on the department’s Web site, commencing January 1, 2007, approved pool safety information available for consumers to download. Pool contractors are encouraged to share this information with consumers regarding the potential dangers a pool or spa poses to toddlers. Additionally, pool contractors may provide the consumer with swimming pool safety materials produced from organizations such as the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, Drowning Prevention Foundation, California Coalition for Children’s Safety & Health, Safe Kids Worldwide, Association of Pool and Spa Professionals, or the American Academy of Pediatrics.

**Remodel/Modifications:**

Whenever a building permit is issued for the remodel or modification of an existing swimming pool, toddler pool, or spa, the permit shall require that the suction outlet or suction outlets of the existing swimming pool, toddler pool, or spa be upgraded so as to be equipped with anti-entrapment grates, as specified in the ANSI/APSP-16 performance standard or a successor standard designated by the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**Permits/Application –**

THREE plot plans\*\* showing the location of the pool, equipment, distances to property lines, structures, easements, and septic systems when applicable. The plot plan shall also indicate the type and location of the enclosure/barrier. TWO sets of structural plans and engineering calculations shall also be provided.

Required Inspections

<b>Inspection 1: Pre-Gunite</b>	Steel placement, plumbing, electrical, including bonding.
<b>Inspection 2: Pre-Deck</b>	Forms, deck drains and equipotential bonding.
<b>Inspection 3: Pre-Plaster/Final</b>	Enclosure/Barrier/Alarms and electrical.
<b>Special Final</b>	Approved pool cover barrier when applicable. Installed and inspected with ten (10) days of pre-plaster inspection.

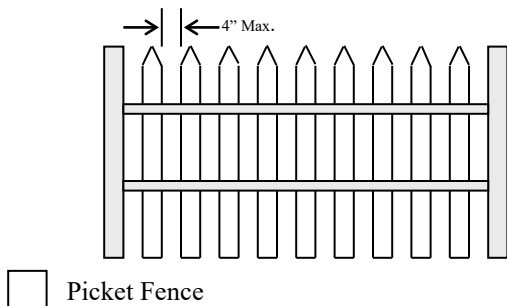
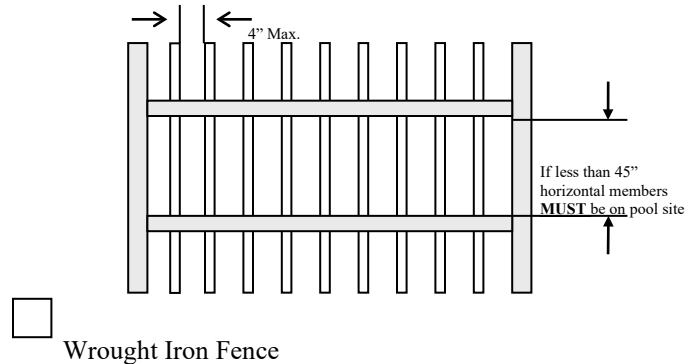
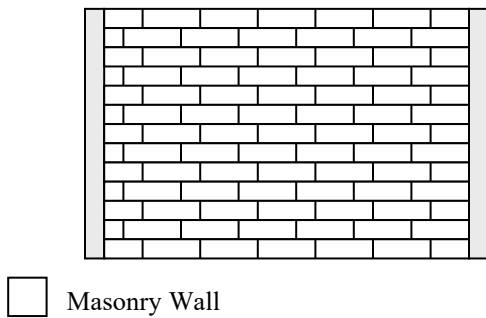
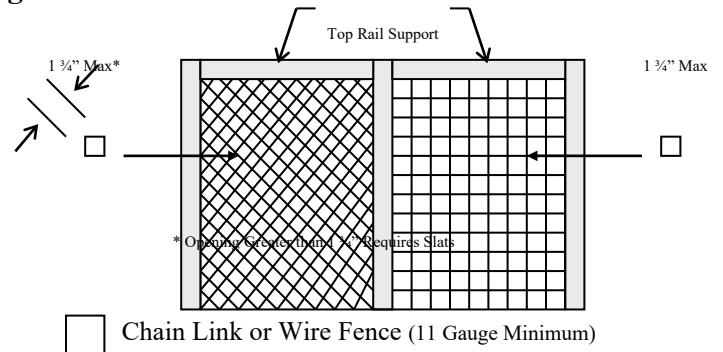
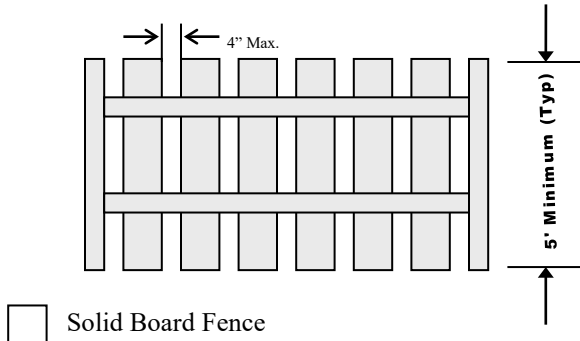
\*Alarms shall sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds immediately after an exterior door is opened, and shall be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal household activities. The alarm shall be automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm may be equipped with a manual means to temporarily deactivate for a single opening. The deactivation period shall be no longer than 15 seconds shall. The deactivation means shall be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door. Alarms may be battery operated or connected to the building electrical system.

\*\*The plot plans shall be approved and stamped by the Department of Environmental Resources if on a lot containing a septic system prior to submitting the building permit application.



## Swimming Pool Fence Requirements

Minimum Height is 5' - 0"



**NOTE:**

Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members less than 45 inches, the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence