

City of West Allis Code Enforcement Department
Informational Bulletin
Swimming Pools

Permit Requirements:

All pools in excess of 75 sq. ft. (approx. 10' in diameter) require a building permit. Any pool requiring the use of associated electrical equipment, such as a filter or a pump, requires an electrical permit, secured by a licensed electrical contractor.

Location:

Pools must be located a minimum of three (3) feet from any side lot line, five (5) feet from the rear lot line and a minimum six (6) feet from any structure (including neighboring properties). No Pools are permitted in the front yard.

Permanently installed and Storable pools:

Overhead wires (0 to 750V) must be at least 22.5 ft. vertically from the maximum water level, 14.5 ft. vertically from in any direction from an observation stand, tower, or diving platform. The height measurements must extend to the outer edge of the pool structures but no less than 10ft from the inside walls of the pool. Underground wiring shall not be installed or exist under the pool unless it is used to supply pool equipment and meets the applicable code(s).

Fencing and Gates:

If any portion of the pool is 4 feet or less above the adjacent grade, a minimum 4 ft. high fence must be installed to completely enclose the pool area. A wall of a dwelling or other building may be incorporated as part of the enclosure. All gates into the enclosure must be self-closing and self-locking. No permit is required for the installation of the fence and may not exceed 6ft from grade.

Pool entry stairs on unenclosed pools must be removable or have the ability to be secured in an upright position to prevent access into the pool when unattended.

Electrical Code Requirements:

Permanently installed pools require at least (1) 120V GFCI protected convenience receptacle not less than 6 ft. but no more than 20 ft. from the inside edge of the pool. GFCI receptacles must be provided within cord reach of all pool equipment (i.e. pump, heater, etc.) Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Equipotential bonding is required for the pool perimeter, associated equipment where required, and ALL metal parts (that are not separated by a permanent barrier) within 5ft horizontally of the inside edge of the pool and within 12ft vertically from the maximum water level or from platforms, diving boards, etc.

For Storable pools that require electrical power, a GFCI protected receptacle is required, new or existing receptacles within 20ft horizontally of the inside of the pool must be GFCI protected as well.

Draining Water from Pool:

Draining of a pool is to be through a hose or pipe and discharged into a public street, right-of-way, or storm sewer drain. Water shall not be discharged onto the ground or into a sanitary sewer system.

Application for a Permit:

To apply for a swimming pool permit, submit plans showing the size, depth and a survey indicating the location of the pool and the location of fences and gates (if required).

This information details basic code requirements to consider when installing a swimming pool. For additional information, please contact the City of West Allis Code Enforcement Department at (414)302-8400.

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