

**SECTION R326
SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS, AND HOT TUBS**

R326.1 General. The provisions of this section shall control the design and construction of *swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs* installed in or on the *lot* of a one- or two-family dwelling.

R326.2 Definitions. The following terms are defined in Chapter 2:

BARRIER
HOT TUB
IN-GROUND POOL PRIVATE SWIMMING POOL
PRIVATE SWIMMING POOL, INDOOR
PRIVATE SWIMMING POOL, OUTDOOR SPA SWIMMING POOL

R326.3 Pools in flood hazard areas. *Swimming pools* that are located in flood hazard areas established by the local *jurisdiction* or the flood plain manager including in-ground *swimming pools* that involve placement of fill, shall comply with Section R326.3.1 or R326.3.2.

Exception: *Swimming pools* located in riverine flood hazard areas which are outside of designated floodways.

R326.3.1 Pools located in designated floodways. Where *swimming pools* are located in designated floodways, documentation shall be submitted to the *building official* that demonstrates that the construction of the *swimming pool* will not increase the design flood elevation at any point within the *jurisdiction*.

R326.3.2 Pools located where floodways have not been designated. Where *swimming pools* are located where design flood elevations are specified but floodways have not been designated, the applicant shall provide a floodway analysis that demonstrates that the proposed *swimming pool* will not increase the design flood elevation more than 1 foot (305 mm) at any point within the *jurisdiction*.

R326.4 In-ground pools. In-ground *swimming pools* shall be designed and constructed in compliance with ANSI/NSPI-5.

R326.5 Above-ground and on-ground pools. Above-ground and on-ground *swimming pools* shall be designed and constructed in compliance with ANSI/NSPI-4.

R326.6 Pools in flood hazard areas. *Swimming pools* in flood hazard areas established by Table R301.2 (1) shall be designed and constructed in compliance with ASCE 24.

R326.7 Permanently installed spas and hot tubs. Permanently installed *spas* and *hot tubs* shall be designed and constructed in compliance with ANSI/NSPI-3.

R326.8 Barrier Requirements. The provisions of this section shall control the design of barriers for residential *swimming pools*. These design controls are intended to provide protection against potential drownings and near - drownings by restricting access to *swimming pools*.

R326.8.1 Outdoor swimming pool. An outdoor in-ground *swimming pool* shall be surrounded by a barrier, which shall comply with the following:

1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade measured on the side of the barrier, which faces away from the *swimming pool*. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches (102 mm) measured on the side of the barrier, which faces away from the *swimming pool*.
2. Openings in the barrier shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.
3. 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.
4. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members, and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 24 inches (610 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.

Exception: When intermediate horizontal members are located 34 inches (864 mm) or more above grade, the spacing between vertical members

shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm) in width.

5. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members, and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 24 inches (610 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.
6. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2 1/4-inch (57 mm) square, 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).
7. 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).
8. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of items 1 through 7, and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the *swimming pool*, and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates, other than pedestrian access gates, shall have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism and openings shall comply with the following:
 - 8.1. The release mechanism shall be located on the *swimming pool* side of the gate at least 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate; and
 - 8.2. 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.
9. Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following conditions shall be met:
 - 9.1. The *swimming pool* shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F 1346;
 - 9.2. Doors with direct access to the *swimming pool* through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm that produces an audible warning when the door and 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; or
 - 9.3. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the

authority having jurisdiction, shall be acceptable as long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Item 9.1 or 9.2 described herein.

R326.8.2 Indoor swimming pool. Walls surrounding an indoor *swimming pool* shall comply with Item 9 of Section R926.6.2.

R326.8.3 Prohibited locations. Barriers shall be located to prohibit permanent structures, *equipment*, or similar objects from being used to climb them.

R326.8.4 Barrier exceptions. *Spas* or *hot tubs* with a safety cover that comply with ASTM F 1346 shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.

R326.9 Locations. Private *swimming pools* shall not encroach on any front or side yard required by this code or by the governing zoning laws, unless in accordance with specific rules of the *jurisdiction* in which the *swimming pool* is located. A wall of a *swimming pool* shall not be located less than 6 feet (1829mm) from any rear or side property lines or 10 feet (3048mm) from any street property line, unless in accordance with the specific rules of the *jurisdiction* in which the *swimming pool* is located.

R326.10 Entrapment Protection for Swimming Pool and Spa Suction Outlets. Suction outlets shall be designed and installed in accordance with ANSI/APSP-7.