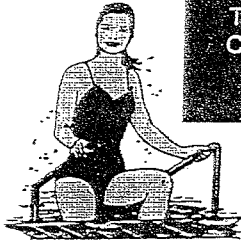


*Division of Fire, Emergency and Building Services*  
 Information from the Office of State Building Inspector



Thinking of installing a pool this year?  
 Check out building code requirements  
 with your town's building official.

Installation of a swimming pool **REQUIRES** application for a permit to the local building official *except* when the pool will be *less than 24 inches deep* or has a surface area of *less than 250 square feet*. However, it is required even with those measurements *IF there will be a permanent water recirculation system* or will involve *structural materials*. Installation of a hot tub or spa **ALSO** requires application for a building permit.

The Connecticut building code spells out *minimum heights and maximum openings* allowed in fences required around swimming pools. It provides criteria for *gates, latches, and the means of direct entry into a pool area from the house* and available options for specific enclosure situations.

Section 421.5 of the building code **REQUIRES** *engineering design for installation of underground pools, both public and private*. Above-ground pools, which are products involved in interstate commerce, are **NOT REQUIRED** to be separately engineered but evidence of their engineering design must be submitted in support of a building permit. If *special conditions* exist which involve grading or other structures which could affect the safety or stability of the product, separate engineering and the seal and signature of an engineer licensed in the State of Connecticut, would be required.

In Sub-section 421.5.5 the building code spells out the dimensions of pool step treads and risers required at public and private pools which **must** provide steps and ladders, as follows:

1. Step treads shall have a minimum unobstructed horizontal depth of 10 inches (254 mm) and a minimum unobstructed surface area of 240 square inches (0.15 m<sup>2</sup>).
2. Risers shall have a maximum uniform height of 12 inches (305 mm) as measured at the centerline of the tread. The height of the bottom risers *shall not vary more than plus or minus 2 inches (51 mm)* from the uniform riser height.

Outdoor private swimming pools **MUST** comply with *barrier regulations*. Section 421.10 includes requirements for an *audible alarm on doors from dwelling units providing direct access to the pool enclosure*; requirements for doors that must have self-closing and self-latching devices and equipment for location of the release mechanism and the direction in which swinging doors must open. Also, the requirement for a power safety cover has been strengthened, including installation and operation of the control switch. In addition, no permit can be issued for a pool at a residence unless a pool alarm is installed with the swimming pool that emits a sound of at least 50 decibels when a person or object 15 lbs. or more enters the pool. This information is available from your local building official who can answer your questions about the State Building Code and its relationship to swimming pools. If an interpretation or clarification of the building code governing installation of swimming pools is needed, a request should be made to: *Office of the State Building Inspector, phone: 860-685-8310.*

