



# Township of Elizabeth

522 Rock Run Road  
Elizabeth, PA 15037  
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## Swimming Pool Safety Barrier Information

### Residential Above Ground

#### PURPOSE

This informational sheet provides a summary of the Township Code requirements related to safety barriers around residential above ground pools.

Please refer to the Swimming Pool Information sheet for a summary of zoning and building permit requirements.

#### DEFINITION

An outdoor swimming pool used or intended to be used solely by the owner of a residential property, his family, or lessee thereof and his family, and by guests invited to use it without the payment of any fee.

#### CODE REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Private residential swimming pools, hot tubs and spas containing water more than 24 inches in depth shall be completely surrounded by a fence or barrier at least 48 inches in height above the finished ground level measured on the side of the barrier away from the pool.
- ✓ The fence shall be constructed as to have no openings, holes or gaps larger than two (2) inches in any dimension.
- ✓ If the fence or wall is a picket fence, the horizontal dimensions maintained shall not exceed four (4) inches.
- ✓ A dwelling or accessory structure may be used as part of such barrier enclosure.
- ✓ All gates or door openings through such enclosure shall be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device on the pool side of the gate or door.
- ✓ Self-closing and self-latching gates shall positively close and latch when released from an open position of six (6) inches from the gatepost.
- ✓ The door of any dwelling or accessory building which forms a part of the enclosure need not be so equipped with self-closing and self-latching mechanisms.
- ✓ Above ground pools having walls four feet or greater in height, consistently for the entire perimeter of the pool, may be excluded from the fencing requirement provided such pools are equipped with access ladders which may be raised and locked in a near vertical position when the pool is unattended.
- ✓ Openings created by the securing, locking or removal of ladders and steps may not allow the passage of a four (4)-inch sphere.
- ✓ Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover that complies with ASTM F 1346 shall be exempt from the barrier provisions mentioned above.

*This handout is intended to serve as quick reference guide. Please reference Township codes and ordinances for complete requirements*