



# CITY OF DANA POINT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, BUILDING  
AND SAFETY

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**B082 – POOL BARRIER**

**2016 CALIFORNIA CODES**

CODE CYCLE

**01/01/2017**

EFFECTIVE DATE

## RESIDENTIAL POOL BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

### INTRODUCTION

The following information is presented to clarify the residential pool barrier & fencing requirements of the City of Dana Point.

### SWIMMING POOL

Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 18 inches (610 mm) deep. This includes in-ground, aboveground and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs, spas and fixed-in-place wading pools. Section 3109.1 provisions apply to the design and construction of barriers for swimming pools located on the premises of Group R, Division 3 Occupancies. This includes a body of water over 18" deep where a drowning hazard exists. Ponds or fountains less than 18" deep are exempt from the barrier requirement.



### POOL REGULATIONS

The Swimming Pool Safety Act, sections 115920-115929 of the California Health and Safety Code, became effective January 1, 1998 and involve child safety around swimming pools.

Commencing January 1, 2007, whenever a building permit is issued for that construction of a new swimming pool or spa, or any building permit is issued for remodeling of an existing pool or spa, at a private, single-family home, it shall be equipped with an approved enclosure and at least with one of the following seven drowning prevention safety features:

1. **Enclosure** – The pool shall be isolated from access to the home by an approved fence, wall, or barrier serving as an enclosure that separates the pool from the house, meeting the requirements of The Health and Safety Code, Section 115923 & CBC Section 3109.4.4.3. The enclosure shall have all of the following characteristics:
  - 1) Any access gates through the enclosure open away from the swimming pool and are self-closing with a self-latching device placed no lower than 60 inches above ground;
  - 2) A minimum height of 60 inches;
  - 3) A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of 2 inches;
  - 4) Gaps or voids, if any do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than 4 inches in diameter;
  - 5) An outside surface free of protrusions, cavities or other physical characteristics would serve as handholds or footholds that could enable a child below the age of five years to climb over.

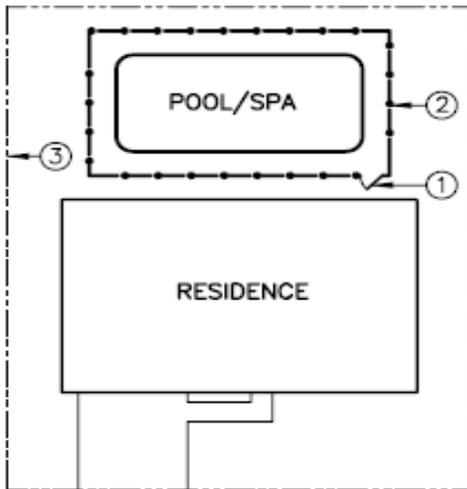
2. **Removable Mesh Fencing** - The pool shall incorporate removable mesh pool fencing that meets American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Specifications F-2286 standards in conjunction with a gate that is self-closing and self-latching and can accommodate a key lockable device; or,
3. **Safety Cover** – The pool shall be equipped with an approved safety pool cover that meets all requirements of the ASTM Specifications F-1346; or,
4. **Exit Alarms** –The residence shall be equipped with exit alarms on those doors & windows providing direct access to the pool area; or,
5. **Self-Closing, Self-Latching Doors** - All doors providing direct access from the home to the swimming pool shall be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor; or,
6. **Swimming Pool Alarms** - Swimming pool alarms that, when placed in pools, will sound upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. These pool alarms shall meet and be independently certified to the ASTM Standard F-2208 "*Standards Specification for Pool Alarms*" which includes surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser, and infrared type alarms. Swimming pool alarms shall not include swimming protection alarm devices designed for individual use, such as an alarm attached to a child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water; or,
7. **Other Means of Protection** - Other means of protection, if the degree of protection afforded is equal to or greater than that afforded by any of the devices set forth above, and have been independently verified by an approved testing laboratory as meeting standards for those devices established by the ASTM or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

**Note:**

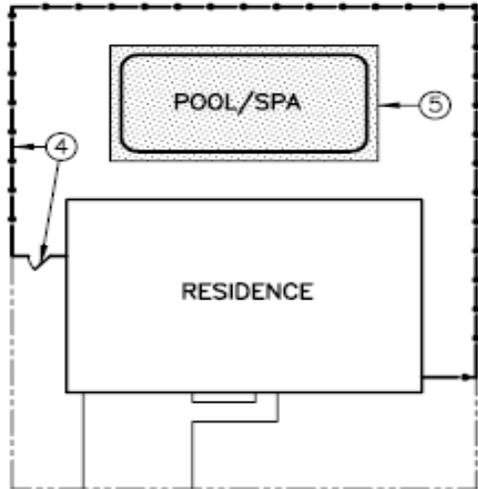
The pool barriers and pool enclosures are two separate, but related elements of the requirements.

- The pool barrier, typically the outer perimeter fence, is used to separate the pool and/or spa from the neighboring properties and the adjoining public areas.
- The pool enclosure, typically the self-closing doors and the door alarms are used to separate the pool and/or spa area from the residence. This isolates the pool from access to the home.

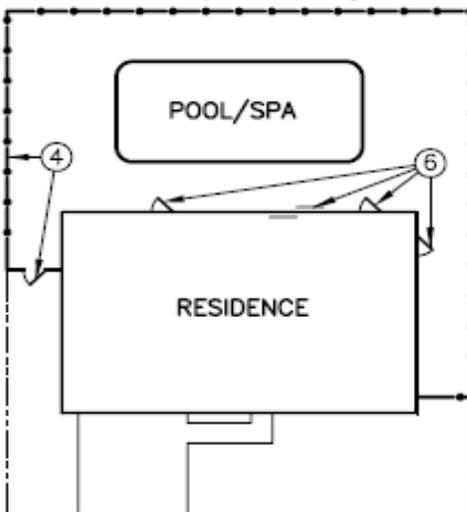
**OPTION 1.**  
Fencing pool/spa only.



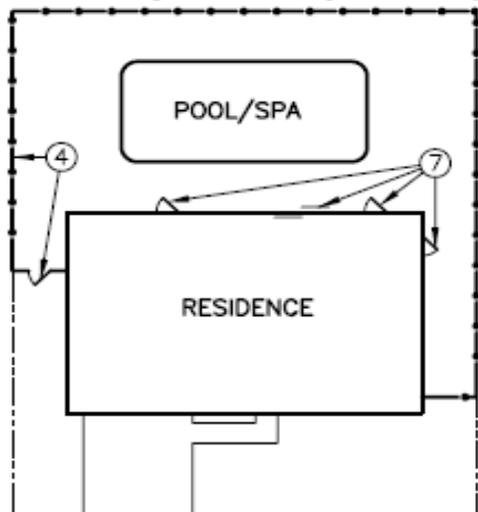
**OPTION 2.**  
Pool/spa cover + yard fencing.



**OPTION 3.**  
Exit alarms + yard fencing.



**OPTION 4.**  
Self-closing and latching doors + yard fencing.

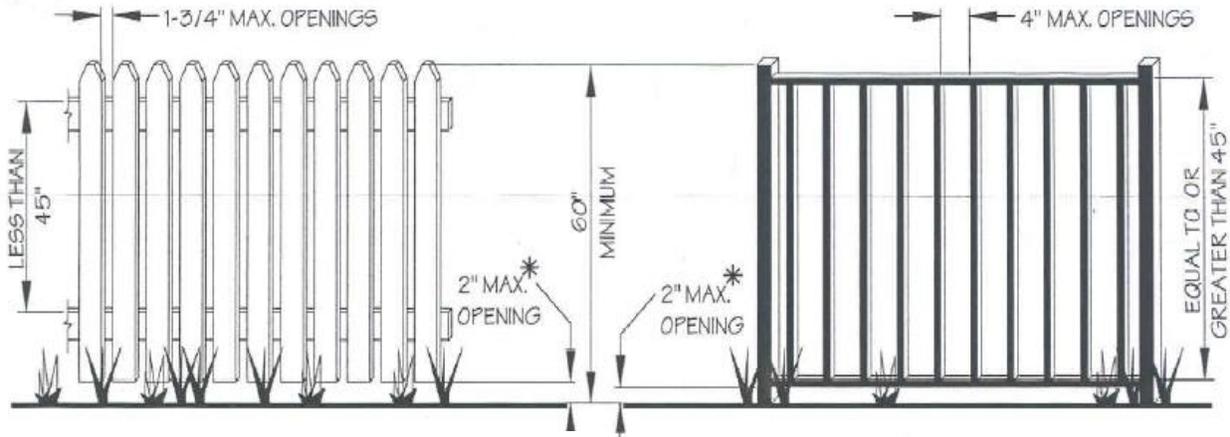


**NOTES:**

1. All access gates through the enclosure shall open away from the swimming pool/spa and shall be self-closing, self-latching with a latching device at a minimum 54 inches above grade.
2. "Safety Fence" (which includes block walls, wood, wrought iron, or chain link fences) shall be a minimum of 60 inches high. The maximum vertical clearance from ground to bottom of a fence enclosure shall not be greater than two inches. Gaps or voids for wrought iron fencing shall not exceed four inches. Gaps or voids for a chain link fence shall not exceed 1 ¼ inch grid design, unless provided with slats, no greater than 1 ¾ inch.
3. No yard fencing required.
4. Yard fencing and access gates must meet City regulations.
5. An approved safety cover.
6. All doors shall be equipped with exit alarms. This includes sliding glass and swinging doors and doors from the garage if it allows access to the pool/spa.
7. Self-closing and latching doors (including sliding glass doors) with a release mechanism shall not be placed lower than 54 inches above the floor.

# VARIOUS POOL/SPA FENCING TYPES

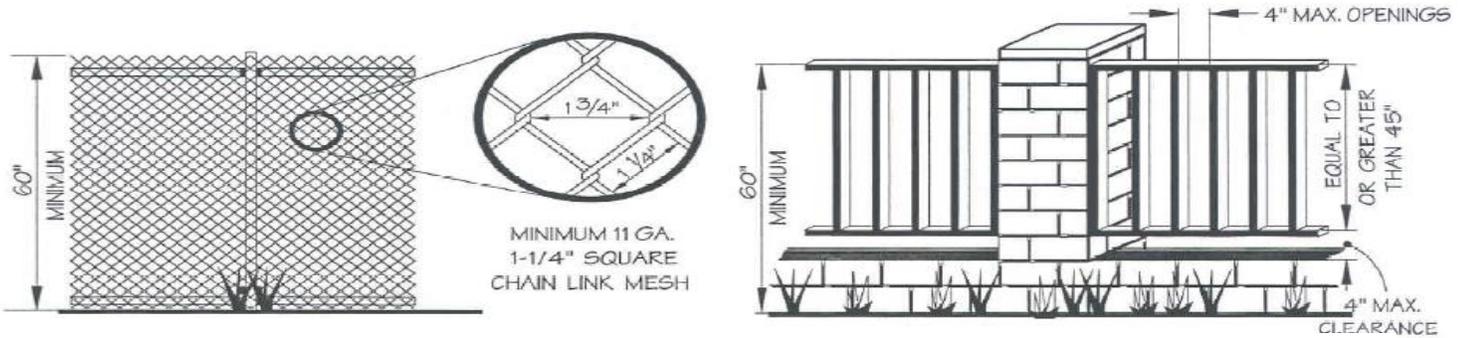
**NOTE:** Not all possible pool fence design are shown, please verify with the plan check staff or inspector for more information.



If Horizontal members are less than 45" apart, vertical spacing shall not exceed 1-3/4" and horizontal members shall be on pool side.

If Horizontal members are equal to or more than 45" apart, vertical spacing shall not exceed 4".

\* NOTE: Spacing from grade level to bottom of fence, may be four inches if grade below fence has a solid impenetrable surface such as concrete.



**NOTE:** If chain link dimensions are larger than shown above, then slats may be woven into the chain link mesh and fastened at the top and bottom.

## GATE LATCHING REQUIREMENTS

Protective shield or fencing with no openings greater than 1/2".  
Release mechanism shall be located on "pool" side.

Release mechanism may be located on either side IF at 60" + above grade.

Release Mechanism shall be located at least 60 inches above grade.

