

Pool and Spa Fencing Requirements



Development Services 1900 N Civic Square, Goodyear, AZ 85395 (623) 932-3004, Opt. 2

This document outlines the City of Goodyear Ordinance for enclosure requirements for pool/spa/or other bodies of water and applies to the lot on which the pool is constructed. A swimming pool/spa or other body of water that contains water eighteen (18) inches or more in depth at any point and that exceeds eight (8) feet in any dimension and is intended for swimming, bathing or soaking, shall be protected by an enclosure surrounding the pool/spa or other body of water area, as provided in this document as outlined in Section B.

In addition to Section B, residences with residents younger than six (6) years of age must comply with this document plus, the requirements listed in Section C of this document.

A. This document does not apply to the following:

1. A system of sumps, irrigation canals, irrigation, flood control or drainage works constructed or operated for the purpose of storing, delivering, distributing, or conveying water.
2. Stock ponds, storage tanks, livestock operations, livestock watering troughs or other structures used in normal agricultural practices.
3. Public or semi-public swimming pools. A swimming pool or contained body of water or barrier constructed prior to the effective date of this document

B. Fences, Gates, Garage Man/Service Doors, RV Garage Man/Service Doors, RV Drive Through Doors shall meet the following City of Goodyear requirements for ALL residences with a pool or spa or other body of water :

1. Perimeter property fence and gates shall be a minimum of five (5) feet in height, measured from the side away from the pool.
2. Have no openings within the fence and gates through which a spherical object four (4) inches in diameter can pass.
3. The fence and gates shall not be constructed in a manner as to provide hand or foot holds for climbing.
4. Gates that are four (4) feet or less in width, shall be self-closing, self-latching with the latch located at least fifty-four (54) inches above the underlying ground on either side of the gate and no opening greater than one-half (1/2) inch within twenty-four (24) inches of the release mechanism.
5. RV and double gates shall have an unlocked padlock present at the time of the inspection. At least one panel shall be provided with a pin/J-bolt that attaches to the ground. These gates shall be locked at all times when not in use.
6. All gates/doors regulated in this section shall open out-ward from the pool/spa or other body of water (unless it is a sliding gate, roll up door, or hinged door opening upward) this includes RV and double gates.
7. Garage Man/Service Doors and RV Garage Man/Service Doors with direct access to the swimming pool/spa or other body of water shall be equipped with a self-latching/self-closing device which meets all the requirements of this document.

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8. RV Garages with doors that allow drive through access through the garage directly to the swimming pool/spa, or other body of water, shall have the door that leads directly to the swimming pool/spa or other body of water equipped with a padlock, combination lock, keyed lock, or electronic door opener. The door that leads directly to the swimming pool/spa or other body of water shall be locked, at all times, except when in use. The locking mechanism shall be present at the time of inspection

EXCEPTION:

A readily portable hot tub or spa which is completely above ground, not more than eight (8) feet in any dimension and has all sides fully exposed, may be permitted to have a hard, latching or locking cover in lieu of the five (5) foot high fence barrier. The cover shall be listed for use as a hot tub or spa cover and shall comply with ASTM F1346 and shall be installed as per its listing.

- C. If a residence or living area constitutes part of the enclosure required by this document for **swimming pools/spas or other bodies of water designed for, swimming, bathing, or soaking and children younger than the age of six (6) reside in the home, there shall be at least one of the following:**
 1. Between the swimming pool/spa or other body of water and the residence or living area, a minimum five (5) foot high wall, fence or barrier to the pool/spa or other body of water area which meets all other requirements of Section B of this document shall be provided.
 2. All ground-level doors or other doors with direct access to the swimming pool/spa or other body of water shall be equipped with a self-latching/self-closing device which meets all of the requirements of this document. Emergency escape or rescue windows from sleeping rooms with access to the swimming pool/spa or other body of water shall be equipped with a latch device not less than fifty-four (54) inches above the floor. All other openable dwelling unit windows with similar access shall be equipped with a screwed in place wire mesh screen, or a keyed lock that prevents opening the window more than four (4) inches, or a latching device located not less than fifty-four (54) inches above the floor. Pet doors with direct access to the swimming pool are not allowed.
 3. Alarms may be installed on all windows and doors that provide direct access to the pool/spa or other body of water area. The alarm shall be listed to UL2017 and shall be installed as per the manufacturer's installation instructions and its listing. The alarm installation instructions shall be available for the inspector and access to the house shall be provided for inspection.
 4. ***If the swimming pool is an aboveground swimming pool, which has non-climbable exterior sides that are a minimum height of four (4) feet, all access ladder or steps shall be removable without tools and secured in an inaccessible position with a latching device not less than fifty-four (54) inches above the ground when the pool is not in use.***
- D. A person upon entering into an agreement to build a swimming pool/spa, or other body of water or sell, rent, or lease a dwelling with a swimming pool/spa or other body of water shall give the buyer, lessee, or renter a notice explaining safety education and responsibilities of pool ownership as approved by the department of health services.

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A person who violates this section is guilty of a petty offense except that no fine may be imposed if a sufficient showing is made that the person has subsequently equipped the swimming pool/spa or other body of water with a barrier pursuant to the standards adopted by this document within forty-five days of citation and has attended an approved swimming pool safety course.

Guidelines for Determining Pool Fences and Gates are Non-Climbable

The following are minimum and maximum dimensions and guidelines to be applied in determining if a fence and/or gate is non-climbable. These requirements apply to the side of the barrier that faces away from the pool/spa or other body of water. Openings in the fence or gate shall be reduced to a maximum of one and three-quarter (1.75) inches if horizontal components are placed on the pool/spa or other body or water side and spaced less than forty-five (45) inches apart. Alternative methods may be submitted to the Development Services Department for review.

Chain link fences/gates are not considered to be non-climbable and are not approved as a pool/spa or other body of water barrier.

Fabric fences/gates are not approved as a pool/spa or other body of water barrier

Details for some fencing and gate applications:

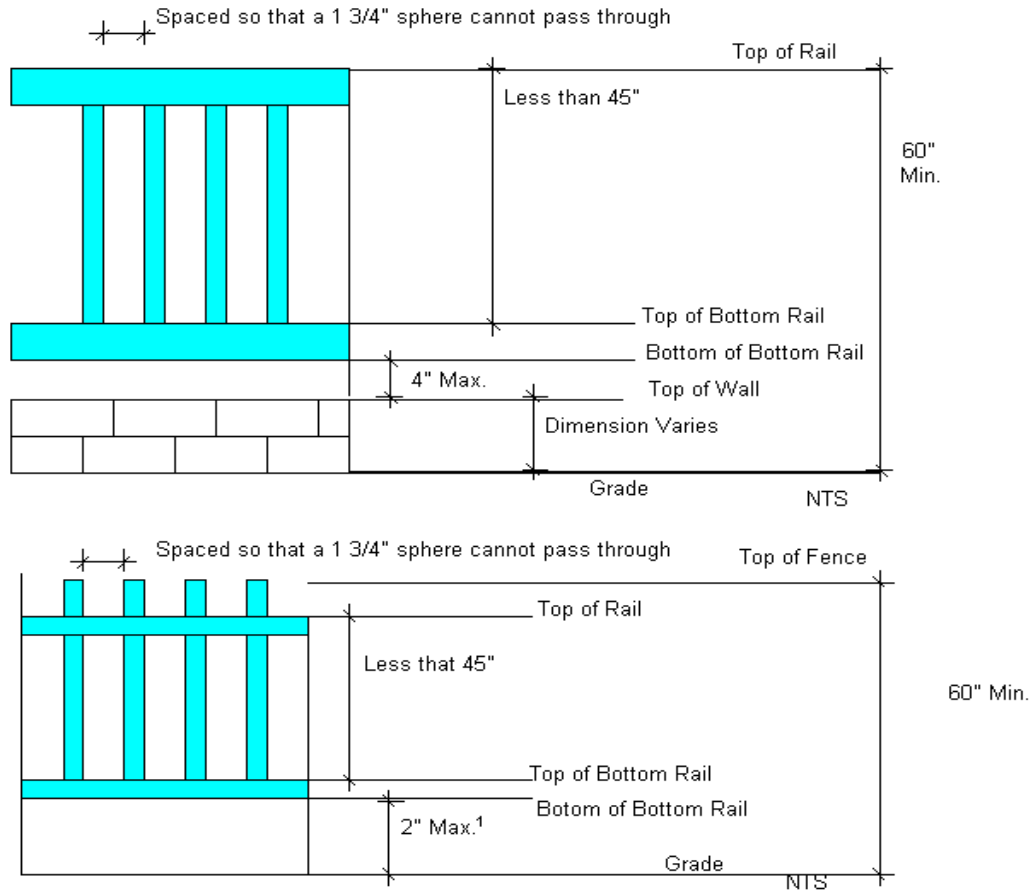
1. Where horizontal elements of fencing or gates are on the outside of the pool/spa or other body of water area, there shall be a minimum of forty-five (45) inches from the top of the bottom horizontal member to the top of the top horizontal member. Vertical elements in this application shall be spaced to not allow the passage of a four (4) inch sphere through the openings in the fence or gate.
2. Where horizontal elements of fencing or gates are on the inside of the pool/spa or other body of water area, or the horizontal elements are flush with the vertical elements on both sides of the fence or gate the vertical elements shall be spaced to not allow the passage of a one and three quarter (1.75) inch sphere. There shall be no minimum or maximum spacing of the horizontal elements in this situation.

The following details provide minimum and maximum vertical and horizontal pool/spa and other body of water fence and gate dimensions:

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1. 2" maximum from the grade to the bottom of the barrier may be increased to 4" maximum when grade is a solid surface such as concrete or brick paving.