



CITY OF BUFFALO, MINNESOTA

In Ground & Above Ground Swimming Pools

This handout is for informational purposes. Approval for each application is required. Unique circumstances may apply to individual lots. Permit applications are reviewed by the Zoning Administrator and the Building Official.

IS A PERMIT REQUIRED?

Yes! Swimming pools constructed below/in ground require a building permit. Above ground pools with a capacity of more than 5,000 gallons and/or 2 feet or more of depth also require a building permit. Permit applications are online through our Citizenserve portal. You will need the following:

- A survey or site plan showing the proposed location of your pool.
- Plans that show the design of your pool.

WHERE CAN THE POOL BE LOCATED?

The location of your pool is an important factor. An improperly located pool can result in friction between neighbors, ordinance violations, lawsuits or even the need to move your pool. To avoid these costly and frustrating problems, your pool must be located entirely inside your property line.

The pool cannot be located within five feet of any principal structure, frost footing or side or rear yard lot line. They cannot be located within a utility easement. If you have any wetland/delineated wetland, you must allow a 20-foot buffer between it and the edge of the pool. Pools can not exceed 25 percent of the rear yard.

FENCES / SCREENING / PROTECTIVE ENCLOSURES

For pools requiring a building permit; fences, screening or other protective enclosure (such as a certified safe pool cover) will also be required. Pool fences must be constructed to keep children from entering the pool enclosure. Fences must be at least four feet in height and shall not have any openings greater than four inches. Any opening below the fence needs to be two inches or less. All fence openings and points of entry shall be equipped with gates or doors with safeguards to prevent children from gaining uncontrolled access. Pool fences must be constructed without handholds or footholds. They must be self-closing and self-catching. Chain-link fencing can not exceed 1.5 inch mesh. Fence materials should be non-corrosive materials.

Below/in ground pools with an ASTM standard certified cover do not require fencing.

Above ground pools with sidewalls that are at least four feet high do not require enclosure by a separate fence **as long as the pool has a removable or lock-up ladder, gate, or other access entry point.** This ladder or access shall be secured or removed to prevent access when the pool is not in use or unattended.



More Questions? Contact Us!

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