



SWIMMING POOL BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

(IRC 2015 as amended by Anne Arundel County)

R326.1: General

Swimming pools shall comply with the requirements of Sections R326.2 through 326.6.

R326.2: Definition

The following term is defined in Chapter 2: Swimming Pool.

R326.3: Residential Swimming Pools

Residential swimming pools shall be completely enclosed by a barrier complying with Sections R326.3.1 through R326.3.7

- **Exception:** A swimming pool with a power safety cover or spa with a safety cover complying with ASTM F 1346 need NOT comply with this section.

R326.3.1: Barrier Height and Clearances

The top of barrier shall NOT be less than 48 inches above grade measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. The vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall NOT be greater than 2 inches measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, the barrier is authorized to be ground level or mounted on top of the pool structure, and the vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall NOT be greater than 4 inches.

R326.3.2: Wide Spaced Horizontal Members

Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches or more, spacing between vertical members shall NOT be greater than 4 inches. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within cutouts shall NOT be greater than 1-3/4 inches in width.

R326.3.3: Chain Link Dimensions

Mesh size for chain link fences shall NOT be greater than a 2-1/4 inch square unless the fence is provided with slates fastened at the top or the bottom that reduce the openings to NOT more than 1-3/4 inches.

R326.3.4: Diagonal Members

Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, the opening formed by the diagonal members shall NOT be greater than 1-3/4 inches.

R326.3.5: Gates

Access doors or gates shall comply with the requirements of Sections 3109.4.1.1 through 3109.4.1.6 of the International Building Code and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device.

Pedestrian access door or gates shall open outward away from pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device.

Doors or gates other than pedestrian access doors or gates shall have self-latching device.

Release mechanisms shall be in accordance with Sections 1010.1.9 and 1109.13 of the International Building Code. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the door or gate, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the door or gate 3 inches or more below the top of the door or gate, and the door or gate and the barrier shall be without openings greater than 1/2 inch within 18 inches of release mechanism.

R326.3.6: Dwelling Wall as a Barrier

Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following shall apply: 1. Doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm that produces an audible warning when the door or its screen, if present, is opened. The alarm shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2017. In dwellings not required to be accessible units, Type A units or Type B units, the deactivation switch shall be located 54 inches or more above the threshold of the door. In dwellings required to be accessible units, Type A units or Type B units, the deactivation switch shall be located not higher than 54 inches and NOT less than 48 inches above the threshold of the door. 2. The pool shall be equipped with a power safety cover that complies with ASTM F 1346.

R326.3.7: Pool Structure as a Barrier

Where an above-ground pool structure is used as barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps, then the ladder or steps either shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access, or the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier that meets the requirements of Section 3109.4.1.1 through 3109.4.1.8 of the International Building Code. Where the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall NOT allow the passage of a 4 inches diameter sphere.

R326.4: Indoor Swimming Pools

Walls surrounding indoor swimming pools shall not be required to comply with section 3109.4.1.8 of the International Building Code.

R326.5: Prohibited Locations

Barriers shall be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb barriers.

R326.6: Entrapment Avoidance

Suction outlets shall be designed and installed in accordance with ANSI/APSP -7.