

Pool Safety

In an effort to minimize the dangers that come with owning a pool, the building code has many specific requirements for pool safety. All pools, hot tubs or spas that contain water over 24 inches deep must have safety barriers to prevent entry by unsupervised children.

- The top of any pool fence must be at least 48 inches above the ground on the side away from the pool. The space between the bottom of the fence (or gate) and the ground cannot be more than 2 inches.
- Openings in the fence cannot allow passage of a 4 inch sphere and the design must be such that the fence cannot be climbed (see appendix G, MI Residential Code for more details).
- All access gates must be self-closing and self-latching and must swing outward, away from the pool. The latch release can be no less than 54 inches above the bottom of the gate, or must be located on the pool side, at least 3 inches down from the top of the gate with no opening larger than ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.
- All doors with direct access to the pool area must have:
An audible alarm that sounds immediately (for at least 30 seconds), and can be heard throughout the house, each time the door **and its screen** are opened. The alarm must automatically reset under all conditions. A manual deactivation switch which temporarily deactivates the alarm **for a single opening** is allowed. The deactivation switch must be at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door.
OR Other means of protection such as a self-closing, self-latching door approved by the building department.