



Department of
Building and Safety
809 Center St
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 420-5100

Pool and Spa Safety Enclosure Requirements

Pool and Spa enclosures are required to meet the current code as listed below regardless of when they were constructed.

ENCLOSURE OF SWIMMING POOLS:

Every outdoor swimming pool shall be completely surrounded by a fence or wall not less than five feet in height, which shall be so constructed so as to have no openings through which a four inch sphere can pass. The maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure shall not exceed two inches. Access gates to such enclosures shall be both self-closing with a gate height of not less than five feet and self-latching with a latching device height of not less than 54 inches. Gates, fences and walls shall be of a design to discourage climbing and be free of protrusions or cavities that could serve as hand or footholds that a child under five could climb. Gates shall open away from the pool area.

Enclosures which do not isolate the pool from access directly from an adjoining residence shall be prohibited unless one of the following devices are installed:

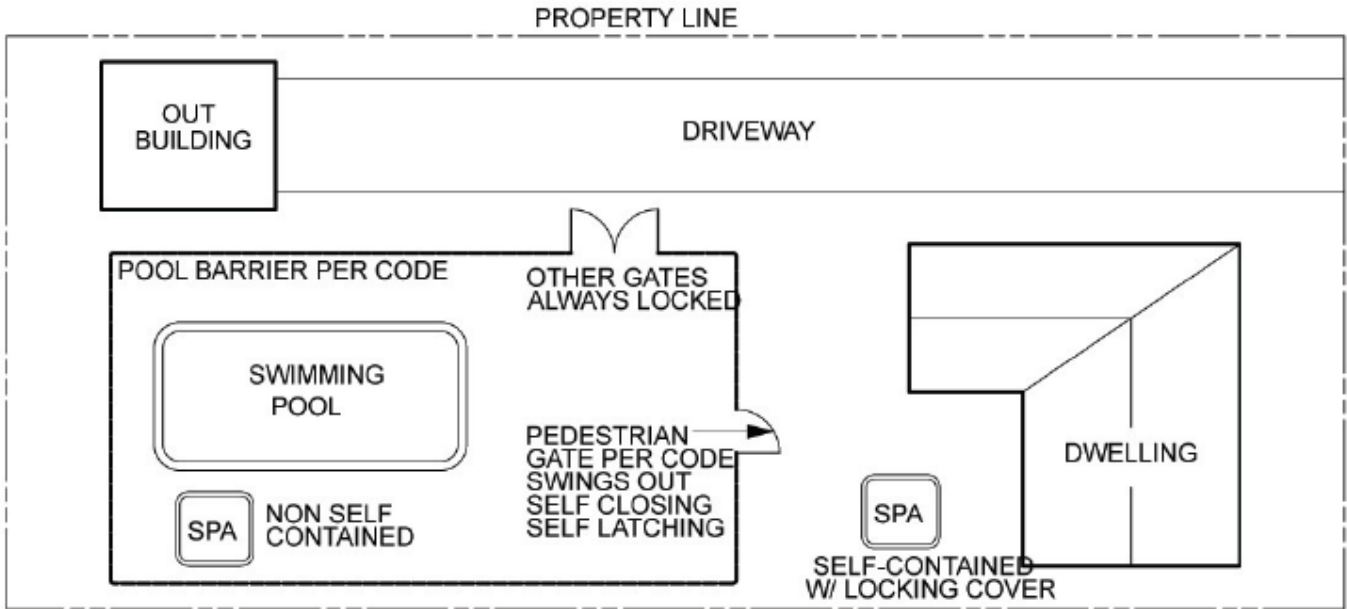
- An approved safety pool cover
Or
- Exit alarms shall be installed on all doors providing direct access to the pool area. Such alarms shall be continuous sounding until reset and shall be audible throughout the residence. Reset devices shall be located not closer than 54 inches from the floor.

The Chief Building official may make modifications in individual cases, upon a showing of good cause, with respect to the height, nature or location of the fence, wall, gates or latches, or the necessity therefor, provided the protection sought hereunder is not reduced thereby. The chief building official may permit other protective devices or structures, including, but not limited to, hedges to be used so long as the degree of protection afforded by the substitute devices or structures is not less than the protection afforded by the wall, fence, gate and/or latch described herein.

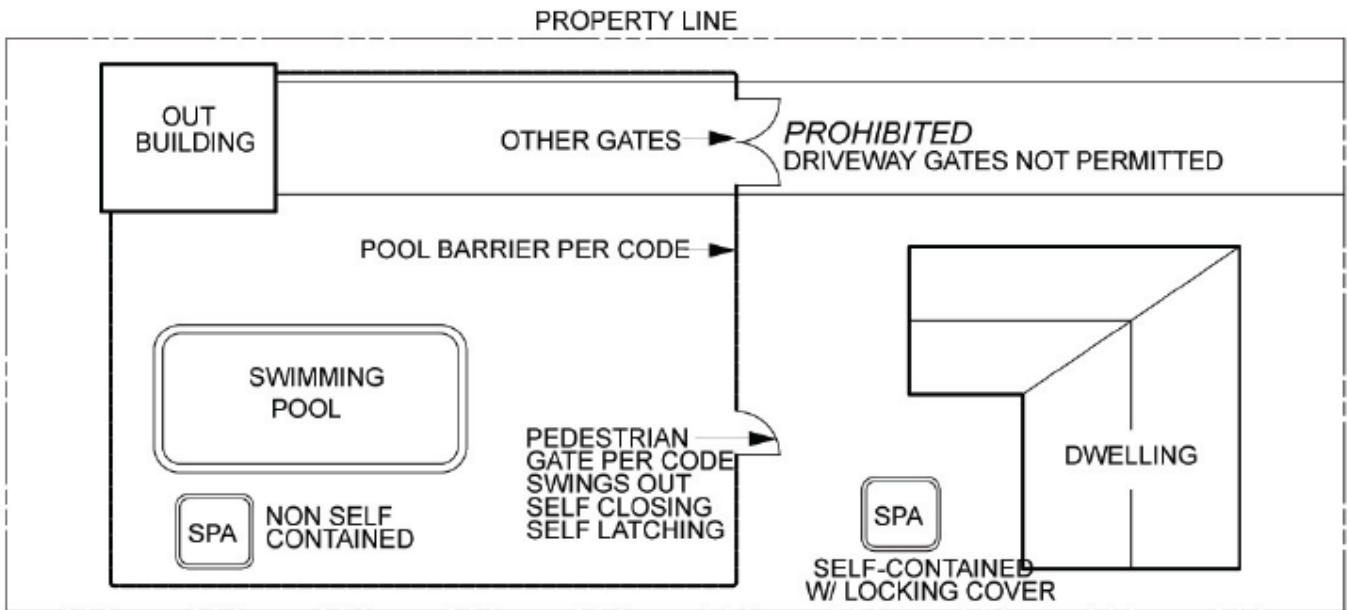
The fence or wall, or other enclosure, as herein specified, shall be installed or provided around all existing swimming pools. No swimming pool shall be filled with water until the fencing, wall, or other enclosure required hereby has been provided.

The requirements of this section shall be applicable to all outdoor swimming pools now existing or hereafter constructed, except hotel and motel pools where an attendant or supervisor is on duty on the premises at all times. No person in possession of land within the city, either as owner or purchaser, lessee, tenant or licensee, upon which is situated an outdoor swimming pool which is subject to the regulations hereof, shall fail to provide and maintain such fence or wall as is herein specified.

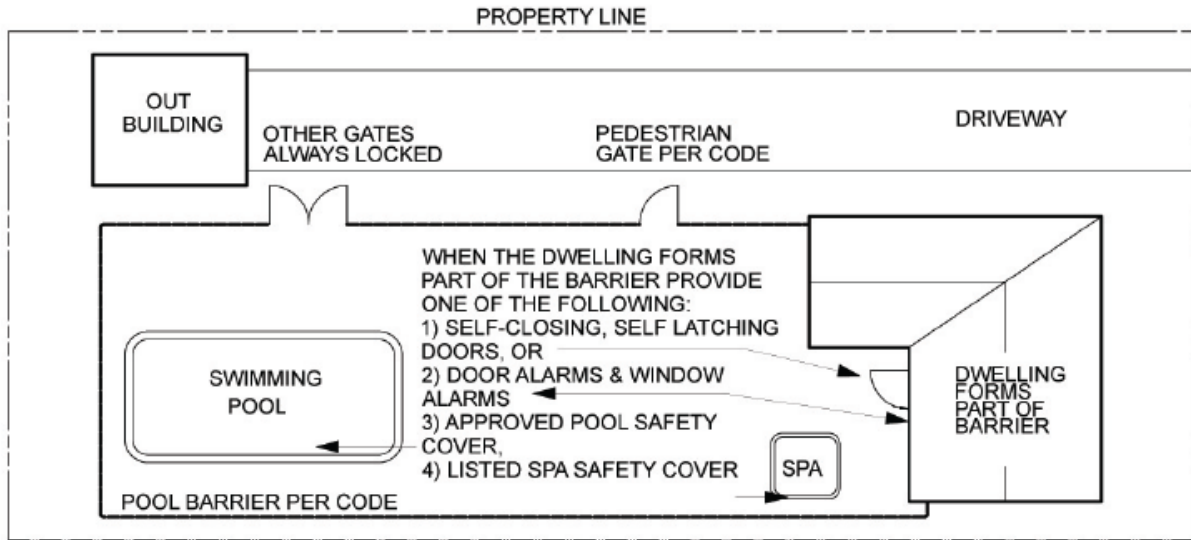
Residential Pool Barrier Site Plans



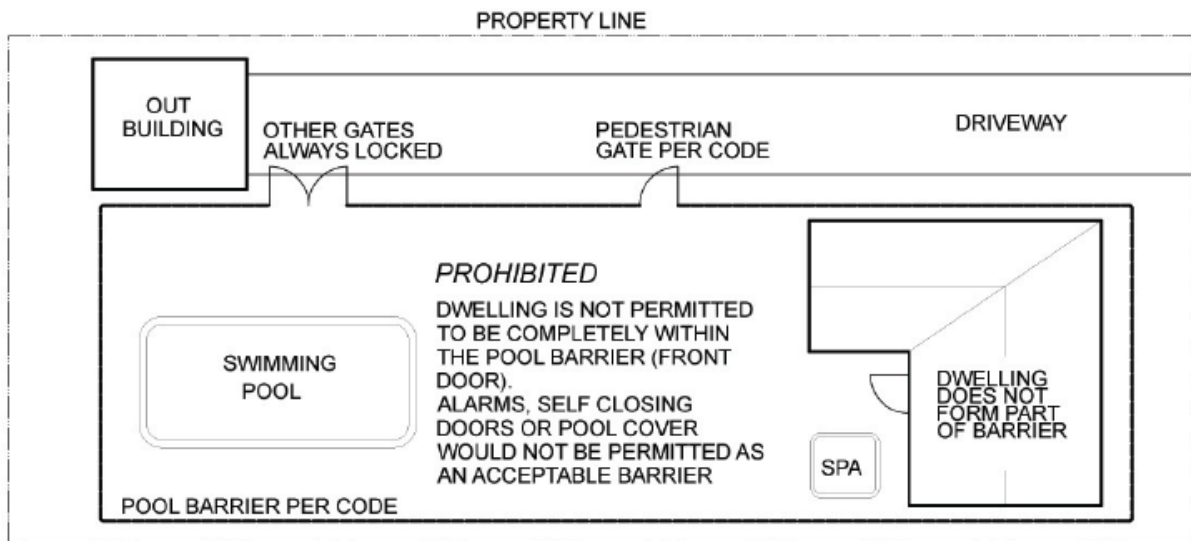
PLAN "A" - ACCEPTABLE LAYOUT



PLAN "B" - PROHIBITED LAYOUT



PLAN "C" - ACCEPTABLE LAYOUT



PLAN "D" - PROHIBITED LAYOUT

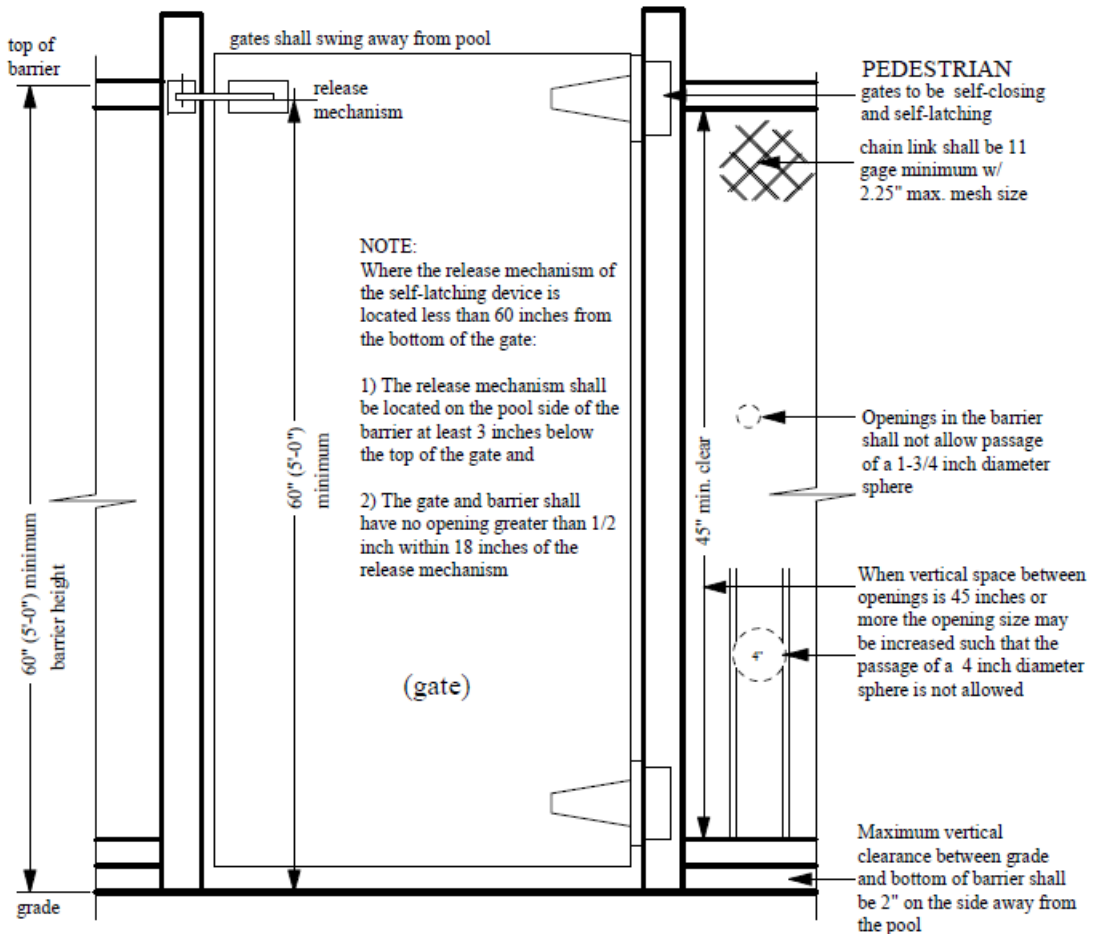
RESIDENTIAL POOL ENCLOSURE

BARRIER & GATE DETAILS

THIS DRAWING IS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY AND NOT TO BE USED FOR WORKING DRAWINGS OR DOCUMENTS

AN OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL, SPA OR HOT TUB SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH A COMPLIANT BARRIER THAT SHALL BE INSTALLED, INSPECTED AND APPROVED PRIOR TO PLASTERING OR FILLING WITH WATER.

PLEASE REFER TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CODE 12.10.216 - SWIMMING POOL ENCLOSURE ORDINANCE FOR "SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS", FOR CODE REQUIREMENTS. (Eff: 1/2/08)



Any decorative design work on the side away from the swimming pool, such as protrusions, indentations or cutouts, which render the barrier "easily climbable" is prohibited.