



**City of La Puente**

**Division of Building and Safety**

**BARRIERS FOR SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND**

**HOT TUBS**

**INTRODUCTION**

The following information is presented to clarify the pool barrier and noise attenuation requirements of the City of La Puente. Several changes have occurred as a result of the 2007 Los Angeles County and 2007 California Building Code adoption.

**SWIMMING POOL**

Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 18 inches (610 mm) deep. This includes in-ground, aboveground and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs, spas and fixed-in-place wading pools. Section 3109.1 provisions apply to the design and construction of barriers for swimming pools located on the premises of Group R, Division 3 Occupancies.

**NATURAL GRADE** - is the unimproved ground surface, such as earth or a walking surface

**IMPROVED GRADE**- is the modified ground surface after changes have been made to

**ENCLOSURE**- means a fence, wall or other barrier that isolates a swimming pool from access including openings from a structure directly accessible to a pool or spa.

**EXIT ALARMS**- means devices that make audible continuous alarm sounds when any door or window that permits access from the residence to the pool area that is without any intervening enclosure, is opened or is left ajar. Exit alarms may be battery operated or may be connected directly to the electrical wiring of the building.

**APPROVED SAFETY POOL COVER** means a manually or power-operated safety pool cover that meets all of the performance standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), in compliance with the standard F 1346-91.

**BARRIERS FOR SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS, AND HOT TUBS**

Section 3109 of the 2007 California Building Code has been amended to read as follows:

1. Section 3109.4.1 The top of the barrier shall be at least 60 inches above grade measured on the side of the barrier, which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 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 level, such as an above ground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches.
2. Section 3109.4.1.1 Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4 inch sphere.

3. Section 3109.4.1.2 Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as masonry or stone walls, shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.
4. Section 3109.4.1.3 Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal member is less than 45 inches, the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical member, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width.
5. Section 3109.4.1.4 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 exceed 4 inches. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width.
6. Section 3109.4.1.5 Chain link dimensions. The maximum mesh size for chain link fence shall be 2.25 inch square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or bottom which reduce the openings to no more than 1-3/4".
7. Section 3109.4.1.8.1 Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following shall apply:
  - All doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm that produces an audible warning when the door and its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm shall be listed in accordance with UL 2017. The audible alarm shall activate within 7 seconds and sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds immediately after the door is opened, and be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal household activities. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm system shall be equipped with a manual means, such as a touchpad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch shall be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices approved by the building official, shall be acceptable so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by the alarm system described above.
  - The pool shall be equipped with a power safety cover that complies with ASTM F 1346
  - Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the administrative authority, shall be accepted so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Section 3109.4.1.8 items 1 and 2.
8. Section 3109.4.1.9 Where an above-ground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps, then (1) the ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked, or removed to prevent access or (2) the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of Sections 3109.4.1.1 through 3109.4.1.8. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4 inch diameter sphere.
9. Section 3109.4.2 Walls surrounding Indoor Swimming Pool shall not be required to comply with the requirements of Section 3109.4.1.8.

10. Section 3109.4.3 Prohibited locations. Barriers shall be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment, or similar objects from being used to climb the barrier.
11. Section 3109.5 Entrapment avoidance. Suction outlets shall be designed to produce circulation throughout the pool or spa. Single outlet systems, such as automatic vacuum cleaning systems, or other such multiple suction outlets whether isolated by valves or otherwise shall be protected against user entrapment. (See State of California Anti-entrapment handout)
12. Section 3109.6 Sound Attenuation. Filters, heating systems, and pumps installed to serve pool, spa, hot tub, waterfall, or any other body of water, shall be enclosed and soundproofed. An acoustical report prepared by a licensed or approved acoustical professional can be used to substitute for sound wall enclosures as long as the report demonstrates the compliance of the requirements Municipal Code, 2007 CBC and Los Angeles County Building Code.
13. Section 3109.4.1.6 where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening found by the diagonal members shall be no more that 1-3/4 inches.
14. Section 3109.4.1.7 Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Sections 3109.4.1.1 through 3109.4.1.6 and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian-access gates shall open outward away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall have a self latching device. Release mechanisms shall be in accordance with Sections 1008.1.8 and 1109.13. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, (1) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate and (2) the gate barrier shall have no opening greater that ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.
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16. Section 3109.4.1.7 Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Sections 3109.4.1.1 through 3109.4.1.6 and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian-access gates shall open outward away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall have a self latching device. Release mechanisms shall be in accordance with Sections 1008.1.8 and 1109.13. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, (1) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate and (2) the gate barrier shall have no opening greater that ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.