



REQUIREMENTS FOR POOL & SPA BARRIERS FOR NEW POOL OR SPA OWNERS

The City of Yuma has adopted very specific code requirements for pool and spa barriers. The main idea of these requirements is to prevent unauthorized access to the pool by young children, whether they are inside your home or outside of your yard. Although your contract with your pool contractor may include these fences and/or alarms, this information should answer most questions in the event you do the work yourself.

Requirement for all pools/spas:	minimum 60" tall fence to separate the pool/spa area from the outside of your property
Requirement for all pools/spas:	minimum 48" tall fence to separate the pool/spa area from any door giving access from within the home
	OR
	installation of approved alarms at all doors with direct access to the pool or spa or approved listed safety cover

Fencing requirements:

While many different materials can be used, there are specific requirements that must be incorporated into the design of your barrier. If the fencing or gates are constructed of vertical members, as in wrought iron fencing, the clear space between the vertical bars can be 4 inches maximum if there are no horizontal members closer than 45 inches apart. If horizontal spacing is less than that, the clear space between vertical members must be reduced to 1¾ inches maximum. The reason for this is to prevent a foothold on the outside of the barrier, which creates a ladder effect. Also, any decorative design work on the outside of the fencing which would promote climbing is prohibited. If you have an existing gate that does not meet these provisions, an option is to cover the outside of the barrier with a material such as outdoor-rated siding or an expanded metal mesh. This would eliminate the need for a new gate.

All fencing and gates are required to have a minimum 12" wide surface such as a concrete deck or sidewalk within 4 inches of the bottom of the barrier. This requirement can be met by pouring a new ribbon of concrete below the barrier if no solid surface exists at the base. If, for instance, you wish to place a wrought iron fence in concrete post footings on the outside of the new cool decking, keep the bottom horizontal member of the fence within 4 inches horizontally of the edge of the concrete. The idea here is to prevent small children from easily digging under the barrier or being able to squeeze between the fencing and the edge of the cool decking.

Any drive-through gate in your barrier can hinge in either direction and must be self-latching with provisions to be locked in the closed position. All walk gates must hinge outward away from the pool and be self-latching **and** self-closing. The release of any self-latching device needs to be a minimum of 54 inches above the walking surface at the gate.

Alarm requirements (if applicable):

Any alarm and the de-activation button used must be securely attached with screws or nails. Two-sided tapes and glues are not permitted for mounting the devices. Any key or switch-operated alarms that indefinitely disable the devices are prohibited. The alarm would have to sound within 7 seconds of the door opening and should sound continuously for at least 30 seconds, even if the door were to be closed again. A manual means of temporarily deactivating the alarm for no more than 15 seconds, such as a pushbutton, is also required. The device would have to automatically reset under all conditions. This button would need to be mounted a minimum of 54 inches above the floor.

An area that is often overlooked is a walk-through door that allows access directly from the interior of your garage to the pool area. This door would also require the use of an approved door alarm or an additional barrier to isolate it from the pool area.

In the event you have any questions during the construction process, please call the City of Yuma Building Safety Division at 373-5163, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Because the building inspectors are out of the office a good part of each day, your questions may be answered by an available plans examiner, or you can ask to leave a message for a particular building inspector, possibly who has been to your site and is familiar with your project. Most calls will be returned the same day, but no later than the following day.

We look forward to providing any information you need during the days ahead, as you count down to that first splash!