

**Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire, Emergency and Building Services
Information from the Office of State Building Inspector**

*Thinking of installing a pool this year?
Check out building code requirements with your municipal Building Official.*

Installation of a new swimming pool REQUIRES application for a permit to the local building official when the pool depth will be 24 inches or greater deep. This permit requirement includes in-ground swimming pools, above-ground swimming pools, on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas.

Outdoor private swimming pools MUST comply with the State Building Code **barrier and entrapment protection** minimum regulations. The primary reason for compliance with these minimum code requirements is for preservation of individual's life safety. The purpose for these provisions is to provide an effective barrier surrounding the pool area to reduce the potential for young children to gain uncontrolled access, and to provide a level of protection against possible entrapment at the pool suction inlets. In addition to the State Building Code swimming pool requirements Connecticut General Statute Section 29-265a has specific criteria for installation of a pool alarm prior to issuance of a building permit.

Inflatable swimming pools which can contain water over twenty-four inches deep is a relatively new product which has been made available to the Connecticut Consumer. The inflatable walls of an above grade inflatable swimming pool, (which contains water over twenty-four inches deep), **are not an effective pool barrier and require a pool barrier** which is typically a fence enclosure.

The 2005 State Building Code provides detailed provisions for barriers around swimming pools along with entrapment protection for swimming pool and spa suction outlets. These requirements address:

- minimum heights and maximum openings allowed in fences
- criteria for the fence gates and latches
- criteria for the means of direct entry into a pool area from the house
- criteria for the pool and spa suction outlet cover and grate
- minimum number and separation distance of suction outlets
- criteria for circulation systems equipped with atmospheric vacuum relief systems
- minimum and maximum depths for pool vacuum cleaner fittings
- criteria for power safety covers

All newly installed swimming pools, hot tubs and spas installed after September 30, 2009 must comply with the revisions of the 2005 State Building Code that became effective August 1, 2009. Pools installed prior to August 1, 2009, and in compliance with the State Building Code that was in effect at that time, are not affected by these revisions.

This information is available from your local building official who can answer your questions about the State building Code and its relationship to swimming pools. If a further clarification of the State Building Code governing installation of swimming pools is needed, a request can be made to the *Office of State Building Inspector*, telephone: 860-685-8310.