

INGROUND SWIMMING POOLS

(Based on the 2015 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code)
(Section N1103.10, IRC Chapter 42)

This list is only a summary of the code.

All work is required to comply with the 2015 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC).

1. A minimum 48-inch-high barrier is required around the pool that complies with one or more of the following.
 - A) The barrier may not be located more than 2 inches above the grade.
 - B) If the distance between the horizontal rails is less than 45 inches, the spacing between the vertical rails shall not exceed 1¾ inch.
 - C) If the distance between the horizontal rails is more than 45 inches, the spacing between the vertical rails shall not exceed 4 inches.
 - D) The gate shall swing outward (away) from the pool.
 - E) The gate shall be self-closing and self-latching.
 - F) The gate latch shall be located at least 54 inches high measured from the bottom of the gate to the latch or The latch shall be located on the pool side (inside) of the gate a minimum of 3 inches below the top of the gate and there shall be no opening larger than ½ inch within 18 inches of the latch.
 - G) A fence or barrier may not be constructed as a ladder effect, to prohibit children outside the pool to be able to climb over the fence or barrier to gain access to the pool.
 - H) If the pool barrier is part of one or all of the following, house wall, garage wall, shed wall or similar structure and there are access doors in the barrier walls a door alarm is required to be mount on the side of the door or screen door opposite the pool. The deactivation button may not be less than 54 inches above the floor. The alarm is required to listed and labeled in accordance with UL 2017.
2. Pool equipment installed outside of the pool fence the must be placed 48 inches from the pool fence to prevent the equipment from being used for climbing.
3. Barriers shall be located to prohibit permanent structures, equipment, or similar objects from being used to climb upon.
4. All suction outlets shall be designed and installed in accordance with ANSI/APSP-7.
5. Lighting fixtures other than the pool light shall not be placed over the pool or within 5 feet horizontally of the pool.
6. All equipment is required to be listed and labeled.

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7. A convenience receptacle is required not less than 6 feet and no more than 20 feet from the wall of the pool. The receptacle shall be GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) protected and the receptacle shall be covered with an in-use cover.
8. All conduits shall be buried a minimum of 18" below finished grade. (20" deep trench)
9. All receptacles, panels, or junction boxes shall be mounted on a structural wall, post (usually 4'x4' pressure treated), or equal.
10. All non-twist lock receptacles shall be listed weather-resistant type and tamper-resistant type.
11. The pool pump shall be controlled with a time clock.
12. Pool motor is required to be bonded to pool with an 8 awg solid copper wire.
13. The pool pump is required be listed and labeled for swimming pool use.
14. If the ladder is metal, it is required to be bonded to the pool using an 8 awg solid copper wire and listed copper or brass connectors.
15. The pool water is required to be intentionally bonded to the bonding ring by a means of a conductive surface area not less than 9 square inches installed in contact with the pool water. There are products available on the market to help comply with this requirement. The use of a stainless-steel hose fitting or a plate in contact with the pool water is some of the methods on the market.
16. All metal within 5 feet of inside wall of the pool shall be bonded to the pool with 8 awg solid copper wire.
17. An 8 awg solid bare copper wire shall be installed around the perimeter of the pool no less than 18 inches and no more than 24 inches from the wall of the pool. The wire shall be buried 4 to 6 inches deep. The wire shall be connected to the pool (with listed connectors) at 4 locations equally spaced. If the pool walls are nonconductive material the bonding ring would run to the pool pump.
18. Bonding connectors and machine screws or nut and bolts shall be stainless steel, brass, copper, or copper alloy. Connectors shall be listed. Sheet metal screws are NOT permitted for bonding.
19. Pool heaters shall be equipped with a readily accessible on/off switch. Gas heaters shall not have continuously burning pilot lights.
20. Heated pools shall be equipped with a vapor retardant pool cover on or at the water surface. Pools heated to more than 90°F (32°C) shall have a pool cover with a minimum insulation value of R-12.
21. Existing overhead wires shall be a minimum of 10 feet away from the pool wall, and any underground wires shall be 5 feet away from the pool wall. (All measurements are made at level line.)