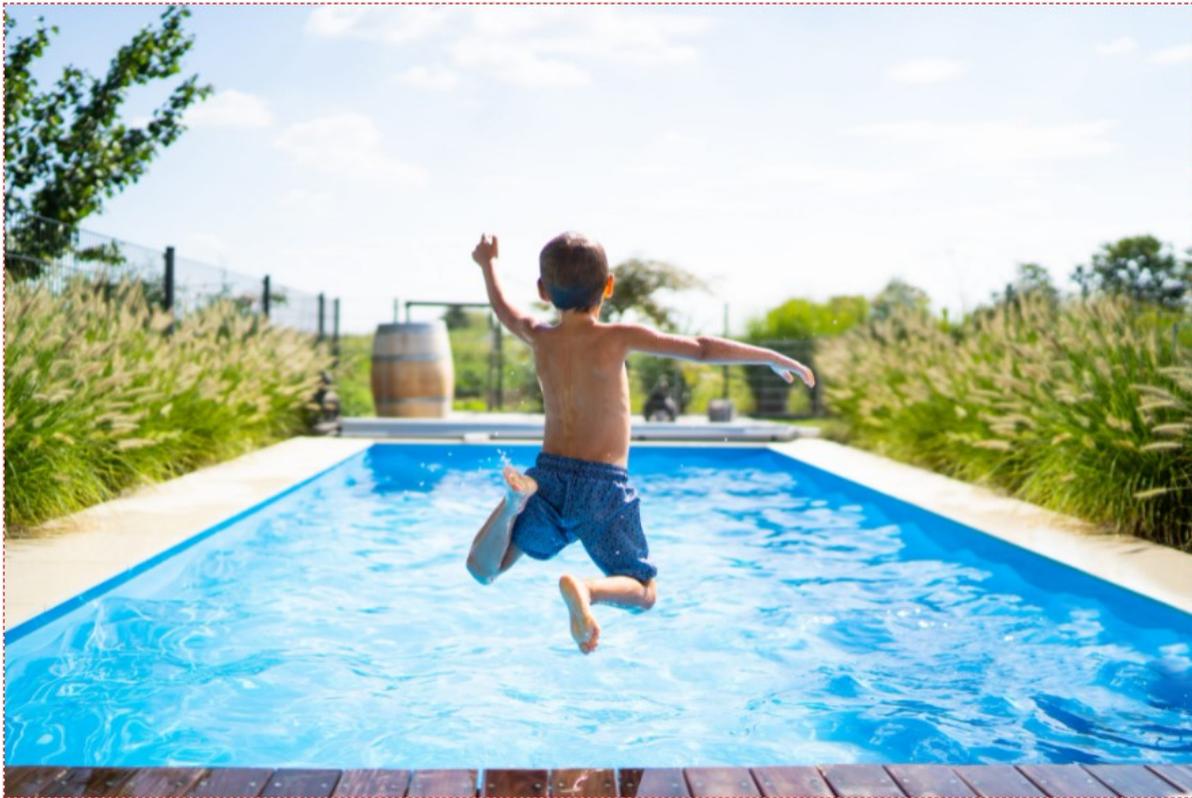




Requirements for Outdoor Residential Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs, & Spas

Everything you need to know to get your pool permitted, installed, and inspected



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Before digging, call Miss Utility- Dial 811- Miss Utility is a free service that will locate all member utilities that may have facilities in your proposed area of excavation. There must be 48 hours notice prior to excavating

When is a permit required?

The Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code requires a building permit for any swimming pool that is larger than 150 square feet in surface area, holds over 5,000 gallons of water, or is 24 inches or more in depth. The code makes no distinction between in-ground, aboveground or inflatable pools, hot tubs or spas.



Yes



No



Yes



Yes

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What is the Process to Building an Approved Pool or Spa?

1. Check with your Homeowner's Association to check if pools are permitted in your community
2. Gather all necessary documents and submit them to Louisa County's Community Development Department, along with a permit application
3. Wait until plans have been reviewed and approved or provide documents required for approval. Approval usually takes around 10-15 Business Days.
4. Pay required fees and pick up your approved permit.
5. Construct your pool and required barriers after posting your approved permit
6. Call in for inspections before concealing work to be inspected

What Documents are Required for Permit Submittal?

1. Plot plan — Completed Agreement in Lieu of Plan (Minimum Standards)
2. Construction drawings — 2 complete sets of pool plans (Engineered & Sealed by RDP or Manufacturer's installation guide). Any platform or deck that a pool or spa is bearing on must be a Sealed Engineered Design
3. Building Permit Application Forms

Please Note: Existing barriers and electrical equipment will be required to be code compliant. If they are not a permit will be required to bring them into compliance. Be sure to check with the Zoning Dept for setback and easement requirements for your property.

Who should apply for the permit?

-Applying for a permit is an important decision because the permit holder(s) bears the ultimate responsibility that the work will comply with the code.

-For in-ground pools, we recommend the licensed pool contractor obtain the pool permit, but the homeowner may do so.

-For above-ground pools, the homeowner usually obtains the permit, unless a contractor is hired, who should then obtain the permit.

-The homeowner is encouraged to have a licensed electrical or gas contractor if applicable; however the homeowner may do the work. When a homeowner is applying for any of these permits, the homeowner must review the code requirements fact sheet.

-The final inspection for the swimming pool will not be approved until the work for all permits is completed.

Barrier Requirements:

Minimum height:

-48 inches above grade measured from the outside face of the barrier.

-For above-ground pools, the side of the pool may qualify as the barrier if the pool is 48 inches tall, or the barrier may mount on top of the pool structure.

-In each case, the ladder must be removable when not in use or have a gate that meets requirements listed under "Access Gates".

Maximum opening size:

-2 inches between grade and bottom of barrier

-4 inches between top of above-ground pool wall and bottom of barrier when barrier is attached to the top of pool wall.

-All other openings shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.

-A powered safety cover, which complies with ASTM-1346, may be used in lieu of a fence style barrier.

Climbability:

- Solid barriers (stone walls, etc.) must have no protrusions or indentations.
- Horizontal members less than 45 inches apart must be located on the inside face of the barrier. In such cases, the space between corresponding vertical members must be 1.75 inches or less.
- Chain-link or lattice-type barriers with diagonal members must have openings less than 1.75 inches measured horizontally or 1.25 inches measured diagonally. Slats may be placed in openings to reduce size to the required dimension.
- Decorative cutouts within a vertical member must not have openings greater than 1.75 inches.

Access Gates:

- Must meet height, opening and climbability requirements for barriers.
- Must be self-closing and self-latching, and must open outward away from pool.
- Latches less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate must be located on pool side at least 3 inches from the top of the gate. There shall be no openings ½ inch or greater within 18 inches of the latch.
- Latches located greater than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate may be located on both sides.
- For above-ground pools where the side of the pool is the barrier, the ladder shall be capable of being removed or secured to prevent access, or be surrounded by a barrier that meets the above requirements.

Door/Window alarms:**

- Only applies where the house serves as part of the barrier:
- Must sound immediately and continuously for 30 seconds
- Must be heard throughout the house
- Must reset automatically
- Must be able to be temporarily, but not permanently, deactivated. Mechanism to deactivate must be 54 inches above the door threshold.
- Must be UL2017 compliant.

**** Applies to operable windows that provide direct access to the pool, that are less than 6ft off the ground**

Spas and Hot Tubs:

Safety covers may be substituted for barriers provided such covers meet standard ASTM F1346.

What are the entrapment protection requirements?

Some pools may have circulation systems that may create hazardous entrapment situations for swimmers if not protected. These pools must comply with ANSI/APSP - 7 - 06.

NOTE: If you are not familiar or are uncomfortable with these requirements, please seek a professional's service

What Inspections are Required?

The primary purpose of the pool inspection process is to assure that safety requirements have been met, including verifying that the electrical installation has been completed, inspected and approved, and that the swimming pool barrier requirements of the code have also been satisfied by a permanent pool barrier.

Swimming pools shall not be used until all required inspections of the pool, its barrier (fence or pool wall for an above-ground pool), and its associated electrical equipment have been approved.

All the following inspection might not be required for your specific pool. The following inspections are typically required:

- Footing
- Pool Bonding
- Electrical Ditch
- Electrical Rough-In
- Swimming Pool Final