



City of El Cajon
Building and Fire Safety Division
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Pool Barriers for Drowning Prevention

- City of El Cajon requirements -

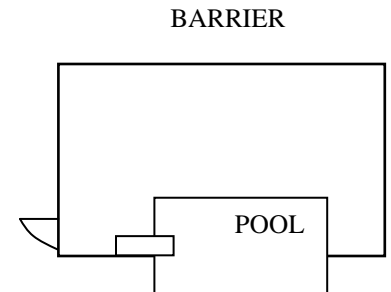
This handout contains **highlights** of El Cajon Municipal Code Section 8.28 establishing safety requirements for pool barriers. For a complete listing of requirements, please read and understand the entire text of 2010 CBC 3109.4.4.

Caution: Pool barriers are only one part of a good drowning prevention program. They make it more difficult, but not impossible, for a child to get into a pool. Do not let barriers provide a false sense of security.

Barriers should never take the place of adult supervision.

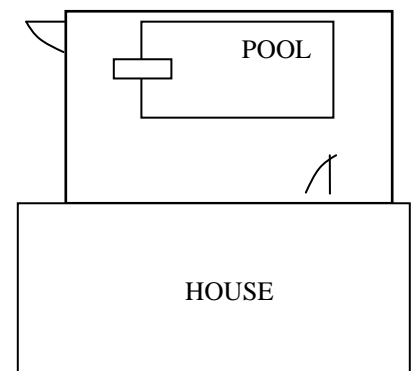
Fences and Gates: 2010 CBC 3109.4.4.3

- ✓ A fence or wall at least 5 feet high must completely surround the pool.
- ✓ The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be two inches.
- ✓ Fence gates must be self-closing, self latching, and open outward away from the pool.
- ✓ Fence latch must be a minimum 60 inches above the surrounding grade level.



Door Alarms: 2010 CBC 3109.4.4.3

- ✓ Doors leading from the house to the pool may be protected with alarms.
- ✓ Alarms shall be capable of providing a sound pressure level of not less than eighty-five DBA when measured indoors at a distance of ten feet.
- ✓ The sound shall activate within fifteen seconds after the door is opened and shall sound continuously for a minimum of ten seconds then automatically reset.
- ✓ The alarm shall be equipped with a manual reset, such as a touchpad or switch, located on the interior side of the wall not less than sixty inches above the threshold of the door to permit entry and exiting without activation of the alarm. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. It may be battery operated or connection to the building wiring.



Definitions. 2010 CBC 3109.4.4.1

- A. A "swimming pool" is any confined body of water, located either above or below the existing finished grade of the site eighteen inches or more in depth, designed, used or intended to be used for recreation, swimming, or bathing purposes. For the purposes of this chapter, a swimming pool shall include a "hot tub," "spa" or "spa pool."
- B. "Public swimming pool" means a swimming pool operated for the use of the general public with or without charge, or for the use of members and guests of a private club.
- C. "Private swimming pool" means all pools that are not classified as a public swimming pool.
- D. "Enclosure" means a fence, wall, or other barrier that isolates a swimming pool from access to a home, adjacent property, or public area.
- E. "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 standards F1346-91.
- F. "Exit alarms" means a device that will make an audible, continuous alarm when any door or gate permitting access from the residence to the pool area, that is without an intervening enclosure, is opened or is left ajar.

Requirements for pool safety. 2010 CBC 3109.4.4.

Every person in possession of land within the city, either as owner, purchaser under contract, lessee, tenant or licensee, upon which is situated a swimming pool, shall at all times maintain, on the lot or premises upon which such a pool is located, one or more of the following safety features:

- A. A pool enclosure completely surrounding such pool, lot or premises and meeting the requirements for enclosures found in Section 3109.4.4
- B. An approved pool safety cover meeting the specifications outlined in Section 3109.4.4.
- C. Other barrier affording the same degree of protection and as approved by the building official.
 - 1. Where "other barrier" includes the wall of a house or structure as part of the barrier, doors leading to the pool area must be protected by one of the following methods:
 - a. Doors may be alarmed with exit alarms as specified in Section 3109.4.4; or
 - b. Doors meeting the requirements for separation gates from Section 3109.4.4

Requirements for enclosures, gates, and exit alarms. 2010 CBC 3109.4.4.2

- A. Enclosures shall have all of the following characteristics:
 - 1. Enclosures shall be a minimum of sixty inches tall measured on the side facing away from the pool;
 - 2. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be two inches. The maximum vertical clearance at the bottom of the barrier may be increased to four inches when grade is a solid surface impenetrable by a child such as a concrete deck;
 - 3. Gaps or voids, if any, shall not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than four inches in diameter; and
 - 4. An outside surface free of protrusions, cavities, or other physical characteristics that would serve as handholds or footholds enabling a child to climb over.
- B. Access gates or doors shall have all of the following characteristics:
 - 1. Access doors and gates shall meet all of the requirements for enclosures;
 - 2. Access doors and gates shall open outward away from the pool;
 - 3. Access doors and gates shall be self-closing, self-latching; and
 - 4. The release mechanism for the self-latching device shall be a minimum of sixty inches above grade.
- C. Exit alarms shall have all of the following characteristics:
 - 1. Alarms shall be capable of providing a sound pressure level of not less than eighty-five DBA when measured indoors at a distance of ten feet;
 - 2. The sound shall activate within fifteen seconds after the door is opened and shall sound continuously for a minimum of ten seconds then automatically reset;
 - 3. The alarm shall be equipped with a manual reset, such as a touchpad or switch, located on the interior side of the wall not less than sixty inches above the threshold of the door to permit entry and exiting without activation of the alarm. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions; and
 - 4. The alarm may be battery operated or connection to the building wiring.