



**DEPARTMENT OF  
BUILDING & SAFETY**  
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# SWIMMING POOL/SPA AND HOT TUB FENCING REQUIREMENTS

## WHERE REQUIRED

The City of Rialto's pool fencing regulations require that all swimming pools be surrounded by a protective barrier fence or wall. This fence or wall may surround the pool itself or the entire premises. The barrier shall be installed, inspected and approved prior to plastering or filling with water. (Exception: Self-contained spas and hot tubs with listed locking safety covers will not require the barrier fencing.)

NOTE: *Swimming Pools* are defined as any body of water or any structure that contains water over 18 inches deep. This includes without limitation all portable, moveable, collapsible, storable and permanent in-ground, above-ground and on-ground swimming pools, garden ponds, spas, hot tubs, wading pools, and fountains.

## THE BARRIER SHALL COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. Barriers shall be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment, or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers.

### FENCES AND WALLS

2. a) The top of the barrier shall be at least 60 inches above grade measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool.  
b) The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance at the bottom of the barrier may be increased to 4 inches when grade is a solid surface such as a concrete deck, or when the barrier is mounted on top of the above-ground pool structure.  
c) When barriers have horizontal members spaced less than 45 inches apart, the horizontal members shall be placed on the pool side of the barrier.  
d) Any decorative design work on the side away from the swimming pool, such as protrusions, indentations or cutouts, which render the barrier easily climbable, is prohibited.
3. Openings in the barrier must not allow the passage of a 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch-diameter sphere.

### Exceptions:

- A) When vertical spacing between such openings is 45 inches or more, the opening size may be increased such that the passage of a 4-inch-diameter sphere is not allowed.
- B) For fencing composed of vertical members attached to horizontal supports, such as wrought iron fencing, the spacing between vertical members may be increased up to 4 inches when the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches or more.

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4. Chain link fences used as the barrier shall have a maximum mesh size of 2¼ inches square. (Exception: If the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top and/or bottom that reduce the openings to no more than 1¾ inches.)

GATES

5. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of the aforementioned Items 1 through 3 and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian gates shall open outward away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate, and the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism. Any gates other than pedestrian access gates shall be equipped with lockable hardware or padlocks and shall remain locked at all times when not in use.

DOORS FROM HOUSE OR GARAGE TO POOL AREA

6. When a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, all doors within that wall having direct access to the swimming pool shall be equipped with either:
- A) Self-closing and self-latching devices with the release mechanism located a minimum of 54 inches above the floor; or
  - B) An alarm that produces an audible warning when the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm shall be listed in accordance with UL 2017. The audible alarm shall activate within 7 seconds and sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds after the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened, and be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal household activities. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm shall be equipped with a manual means, such as a touchpad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch shall be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door.
7. When a wall of a garage serves as part of the barrier, all doors within that wall having direct access to the swimming pool shall be equipped with self-closing and self-latching devices with the release mechanism located a minimum of 54 inches above the floor.

ABOVE-GROUND POOLS

8. Fencing requirements are the same for above-ground pools as are required for other pools, unless the side walls of the pool form a complying barrier equivalent in height (5 feet high) and meet all the minimum requirements of a barrier fence as described in the aforementioned Items 1 through 7. Where an above-ground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps, then:
- A) The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access; or
  - B) The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier that meets the requirements of the aforementioned Items 1 through 7.

When the ladder or steps are secured, locked, or removed, any opening created shall be protected by a barrier complying with the requirements of the aforementioned Items 1 through 7.