

CHAPTER 23
SWIMMING POOLS

PART 1

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SWIMMING POOLS

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PART 1

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SWIMMING POOLS

§23-101. Definition and Interpretation.

For the purpose of this Part, “family pool” is hereby defined as an outdoor swimming pool used or intended to be used solely by the owner of a residential property, his family or lessee thereof and his family, and by guests invited to use it without the payment of any fee. This Part shall apply to all new outdoor swimming pools hereafter constructed as well as existing swimming pools whether above ground or in the ground having a depth of 18 inches or more at any one point.

(Ord. 91, 11/19/1974, §1)

§23-102. Construction Permit and Approval.

1. Before any work is commenced on the construction of a swimming pool or on any alteration, addition, remodeling or other improvement to a swimming pool, an application for a permit for construction, together with plans and specifications pertinent to the construction, as well as explanatory data, shall be submitted to the Building Inspector of the Township for his approval. No part of the work shall be commenced until such approval has been granted to the applicant by a written permit.
2. All plans, including a plot plan, shall bear the name and seal of a registered architect or registered engineer. The plot plan shall show the location of all buildings and the proposed pool on the property, together with the distances to all property lines in the immediate vicinity of the swimming pool and dwelling. The plot plan shall also show the locations of any wells and sewage disposal systems.
3. Standard pools, properly designed by established swimming pool companies and having the approval of a registered engineer or registered architect, shall be acceptable when accompanied by suitable plans and specifications. Details of the proposed enclosure or fence around the pool shall also be shown.

(Ord. 91, 11/19/1974, §2)

§23-103. Enclosures.

1. Every outdoor swimming pool shall be completely surrounded by a fence, wall or similar enclosure not less than four feet in height, which shall be so constructed as to have no openings, holes or gaps larger than two inches in any dimension. If the fence or wall is a picket fence the horizontal dimensions maintained shall not

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exceed four inches. A dwelling or accessory building may be used as part of such enclosure.

2. All gates or door openings through such enclosure shall be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device on the pool side for keeping the gate or door securely closed at all times when not in use, except that the door of any dwelling or any accessory building which forms a part of the enclosure need not be so equipped. Fences shall be erected around all existing swimming pools within six months after the enactment of this Part.
3. Fences shall be erected around all new swimming pools prior to their use.

(Ord. 91, 11/19/1974, §3; as amended by Ord. 98, 10/21/1975, §1)

§23-104. Location on the Property.

1. A swimming pool should be located at the rear of a dwelling or along the side of the dwelling where practical.
2. There shall be a minimum of three feet of concrete, stone, brick or block sidewalk or other all-weather surface around all pools, except portable pools set above ground.
3. No swimming pool or appurtenances including decks and shelters shall be erected nearer to any property line than a building could be erected in the same use district as set forth in the Richland Township Zoning Ordinance [Chapter 27].
4. No swimming pool shall be so located as to interfere with the operation of a well or on-site septic system, or to be located where there is a potential danger of a septic system discharging into the pool or onto the adjacent area around the pool.

(Ord. 91, 11/19/1974, §4)

§23-105. Fees.

The application fee for the construction or alteration of a swimming pool shall be in the same amount as determined in the BOCA Basic Building Code [Chapter 5], based on the estimated cost of construction.

(Ord. 91, 11/19/1974, §5)

§23-106. Design and Construction Requirements.

No permit to construct new swimming pools (existing pools are excluded from this §106) shall be issued unless and until the following design and construction requirements are observed:

- A. **Material.** The material used for lining a swimming pool shall be one which is light in color, is impervious and will provide a tight tank with easily cleaned surfaces. Sand or dirt bottoms are prohibited if uncovered.
- B. **Walls and Bottoms.** All pool walls and bottoms shall be designed to withstand water pressure from within and to resist the pressure of earth or ground water when the pool is empty.
- C. **Steps, Ladders, Handholds.** One or more means of egress in the form of steps, ladders, stepholes or handholds shall be provided for all pools. The coping of the swimming pool, if not higher than eight inches above the water surface, shall be considered a handhold.
- D. **Make-Up Water.** Pools shall be equipped with suitable facilities for adding make-up water as required. There shall be no physical connection between the water supply line and the pool system. When make-up water is added to the pool the inlet shall be at least six inches above the pool water surface.
- E. **Drainage Outlet.** A drain line for a swimming pool may be connected to a public storm sewer if one is available. Where a storm sewer is not available, a drainage system shall be constructed to permit the water to drain evenly over the property of the owner of the swimming pool and in such a way that it does not create a hazard or nuisance or danger to adjacent or abutting property owners. Under no circumstances shall any drain line for a swimming pool be connected to any sanitary sewer line.
- F. **Recirculation.** Provision shall be made for complete circulation of water through all parts of the pool. The system shall be designed and constructed so that a “turn-around” of at least one time in every 12 hours shall be provided. Recirculation systems shall consist of pumping equipment, hair-and-lint catcher, filters, together with all necessary pipe connections to the pool inlets and outlets, facilities and pipe connections necessary for backwashing or cleaning filters.

(Ord. 91, 11/19/1974, §7)

§23-107. Safety Equipment.

All pools, including existing pools, shall be equipped with a ladder or suitable stairs. Other equipment consisting of life preservers, ropes or poles shall be readily available at the pool site.

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(Ord. 91, 11/19/1974, §4)

§23-108. Portable Pools.

Portable aboveground pools having walls four feet or greater in height may be excluded from the fencing requirement provided such pools are equipped with access ladders which may be raised and locked in a near vertical position or removed when the pool is unattended. An aboveground pool as described in this §108 which is served by a ladder or steps which cannot be raised and locked so as to prevent access by small children shall be enclosed in accordance with §103 of this Part.

(Ord. 91, 11/19/1974, §8)

§23-109. Interference with Rights of Others.

Interference with the enjoyment of a neighboring property owner's rights is prohibited. No swimming pool shall be so located or maintained as to interfere unduly with the enjoyment of the property rights of others.

(Ord. 91, 11/19/1974, §9)

§23-110. Shielding Lights.

Lights used to illuminate any swimming pool shall be so arranged as to reflect light away from adjoining premises.

(Ord. 91, 11/19/1974, §10)

§23-111. Unnecessary Noise.

It shall be unlawful for any person to make, continue or cause to be made or continued at any swimming pool any loud, unnecessary noise which disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others. In the operation of a family swimming pool the use or operation of any radio, musical instrument, phonograph, recording equipment or other machine or device for the producing or reproducing of sound in such a manner as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of the neighboring inhabitants or at any time with louder volume than is necessary for convenient hearing of persons who are at the swimming pool site shall be unlawful.

(Ord. 91, 11/19/1974, §11)

§23-112. Electrical Connection.

1. All electrical installations shall conform to the specifications of the National Electric Code. No electric wires or conductors shall cross, either overhead or underground, on any part of a swimming pool, nor shall any electric wiring be installed to any pool wall closer than five feet, if underground, unless enclosed in a rigid conduit, or within five feet, if overhead.
2. All underwater lights must be watertight, self-contained units with “ground” connections running from a waterproof junction box to a proper ground facility or medium. All underground electric wires supplying current to said lights within a distance of five feet of the pool wall or walls, shall be enclosed in rigid conduits.
3. All metal fences, enclosures or railings, near or adjacent to a swimming pool which might become electrically charged as a result of contact with broken overhead conductors, or from any other cause, shall be effectively grounded.

(Ord. 91, 11/19/1974, §12)

§23-113. Penalties.

Any person who shall violate any provision of this Part shall, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding \$500 and costs and, in default of payment thereof, shall be subject to imprisonment for a term not to exceed 30 days. Each day that a violation of this Part continues shall constitute a separate offense.

(Ord. 91, 11/19/1974, §13; as amended by Ord. 135, 11/21/1973; by Ord. 278, 9/18/1991; by Ord. 325, 7/3/1996; and by Ord. 336, 2/5/1997)