

From the Building Code Officials:

Building Permits, Pools & Spas

Building Permits Needed:

If you are doing any remodeling work that involves electrical, plumbing, HVAC, the alteration of interior or exterior structural wall(s), expansion of window(s) or door(s), then you probably will need a building permit to comply with the law. You do not need a permit to replace exterior siding, roof shingles, or to do sidewalk and children's' playground work. If you are not sure whether you need a permit for your project, please contact the Middlesex Building Codes Department.

Pools, spas, and hot tubs will need a permit for installation if their sides are higher than 24 inches (including inflatable pools). Whether your pool/spa/hot tub is a new installation or an existing one, there are very specific requirements in the law that must meet compliance for the safety of the public. Below is a brief listing of these laws. Please understand that the law also stipulates substantial financial fines for violations of these laws. If your pool/spa/ hot tub do not currently comply, please take immediate remedial action. The Township will be enforcing these state laws for those found not in compliance.

ELECTRICAL WORK MUST INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

1. Flexible cords shall be 20 amps or less, not more than 3 feet long with a copper equipment grounding conductor not smaller than 12 AWG and shall be provided with a grounding type attachment plug. E4102.2 (1).
2. A listed packaged spa or hot tub installed outdoors that is GFCI protected, shall be permitted to be cord and plug connected provided the cord does not exceed 15' in length. E4102.2 (2).
3. Receptacles that provide power to the water pump motors shall be permitted to be located between 5-10 feet from the inside walls of the pool and shall be GFCI. E4103.1.1.
4. Other receptacles shall be located > 10 feet from the inside on the pool wall. E4103.1.1.
5. At least one 15 or 20 amp receptacle supplied by a general purpose branch circuit between 10-20 feet from the inside of the pool and not more than 6'6" high. E4103.1.2.
6. Due to lot size preclusions, if a pool is within 10' of a house, a minimum of one receptacle shall be located 5-10' from the pool wall. E4103.1.3.

7. All receptacles located within 20 feet of the pool shall be GFCI. E4103.1.4.
8. All lighting fixtures within 5' of the pool shall be GFCI. NEC 680.22(B) (3).
9. All receptacles located in "wet" exposures shall have approved covers. E3902.10.
10. One or more means of disconnection for all utilization equipment shall be accessible and in sight of the equipment it serves. E4103.3
11. Outdoor lights and fans shall not be installed over the pool or within 5 feet of the pool unless it is 12' higher than the water level. E4103.4.1.
12. Underground wiring shall not be installed under or within the area extending 5 feet horizontally from the inside of the pool. E4103.6.
13. All metallic parts of the pool, deck, electrical equipment, and pool water heaters rated more than 50 amps (per manufacturer's instructions) shall be bonded. E4104.2.
14. Equipment shall be bonded including all electrical equipment within 5 feet of the pool, all electrical equipment re-circulating the pool, GFCI's, and panel board supplying service to the pool. E4105.1.
15. Outdoors, all fans and lights shall be at least 12 feet above the water level. E4103.4.1.
16. Indoors, fans and lights shall be at least 7 feet 6 inches above the water level. E4103.4.4.

BARRIERS MUST INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

17. Barriers around all pools > 24" high sides : (AG105.2; UCC 403.62(5))
 - a. 48" above grade, no more than 2" off ground;
 - b. opening in the barrier not more than 4" in any direction;
 - c. chain link fencing opening not > 2 ¼" in width;
 - d. Lateral fencing spacing not > 1 ¾" gaps.
18. Gates shall :
 - a. be equipped with a locking device;
 - b. open away from the direction of the pool;
 - c. be self closing;
 - d. be self latching;
 - e. where latch is < 54" from the bottom of the gate :
 - (1) the latch be located ≥ 3 " from the top of the gate;
 - (2) The gate shall have no openings larger than ½" within 18" of the latch.
19. Where a house wall is part of the barrier to the outdoor pool :
 - a. the pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F 1346, or
 - b. doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm in accordance with UL 2017, or
 - c. Other means of protection approved by the governing body shall be acceptable so long as the protection is not less than those listed above.

20. Above ground pool structure used as a barrier and means of access is a ladder:
- a. the ladder or steps shall be capable of being locked or removed to prevent access, or
 - b. The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier as set forth above.
21. Barriers shall be located to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or other objects from being used to climb them. AG105.4.
22. Safety glazing is required in walls and fences enclosing indoor and outdoor pools, hot tubs, and spas where the bottom of the glazing is less than 60 inches above a walking surface on the pool side of the surface and, the glazing is within 60 inches horizontally of the water's edge. IBC 2406.3(9).

OTHER

23. Maximum side heights of storable swimming pools is 42." NEC 680.2.
24. Single or multiple pump circulation systems shall have a minimum of two suction outlets of the approved type and be located ≥ 3 feet apart. AG106.4.
25. All decks, steps and handrails must comply with the Uniform Construction Code laws.