Pool Fence Barrier Requirements

The following swimming pool barrier requirements are mandated by the California Swimming Pool Safety Act. The act also required the swimming pool contractor to give the consumer notice of these requirements.

Glass doors and windows within 5 feet of the water's edge and less than 5 feet above grade shall have safety glass.

Pedestrian access gates shall swing away from the pool area and be self-closing and self-latching. (See page 2 for details)

Doors providing direct access from the home to the pool area shall be equipped with exit alarms or self-closing and self-latching devices mounted not lower than 5.4 inches above the floor. (See Footnote #1)

5'-0" minimum fence height (as measured from side opposite the pool)

All pool fence barriers must be non-climbable. (See page 2 for details)

Footnotes:

1. If a pool fence barrier is placed between these doors and the pool, these doors need not be equipped with alarms, self-closing or self-latching devices.
2. Pools equipped with approved pool safety covers meeting the performance standards of ASTM – F1345 – 95 need not comply with any of the fence/gate or door provisions.
3. Although most fencing configurations have been shown it is impossible to anticipate the infinite variety and combinations of materials that may be used. Where climbing or "step" conditions may be encountered, check with the Building & Safety Division.
4. Existing fences surrounding property at the pool area permitted if ALL of the following conditions are met:
   A) The fence is at least 60 inches above grade, measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the pool.
   B) The fence has a maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier of 2 inches, or 4 inches when the grade is a solid impermeable surface such as concrete.
   C) The fence has no openings that will allow the passage of a 4-inch sphere.
VARIOUS POOL FENCE TYPES

(NOT ALL POSSIBLE POOL FENCE DESIGNS ARE SHOWN, PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR INSPECTOR FOR MORE INFORMATION)

IF HORIZONTAL MEMBERS ARE LESS THAN 45” APART, VERTICAL SPACING SHALL NOT EXCEED 1-3/4” AND HORIZONTAL MEMBERS SHALL BE ON POOL SIDE.

IF HORIZONTAL MEMBERS ARE EQUAL TO OR MORE THAN 45” APART, VERTICAL SPACING SHALL NOT EXCEED 4”.

* NOTE: Spacing from grade level to bottom of fence, may be 4 inches if grade below fence have a solid impermeable surface such as concrete.

NOTE: If chain link dimensions are larger than shown above, then plate may be woven into the chain link mesh and fastened at the top and bottom.

GATE LATCHING REQUIREMENTS

ALL GATES MUST SWING AWAY FROM POOL, BE SELF-CLOSING & SELF-LATCHING

Protective shield or fencing with no openings greater than 1/2”.
Release mechanism shall be located on “pool” side.

Release mechanism may be located on either side if at 60” above grade.

CONDITION 1:
RELEASE MECHANISM LOCATED LESS THAN 60” ABOVE GRADE

CONDITION 2:
RELEASE MECHANISM LOCATED 60” OR MORE ABOVE GRADE

TYPICAL SELF-LATCHING GATE and SPRING CLOSER