

CHAPTER 18; BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS

ARTICLE V. Swimming Pools

DIVISION 1. Generally

Section 18-211. **Definitions.**

For the purpose of this article, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

Portable swimming pool means a rubber or plastic swimming pool which can be erected without permanent support.

Private residential swimming pool means any constructed or assembled swimming pool or portable swimming pool which is used or intended to be used as a swimming pool in connection with group I occupancies as defined in the state building code, and available only to the family of the householder and his guests.

Swimming pool means any structure, basin, chamber or tank constructed or designed to contain an artificial body of water for swimming, diving, relaxation or recreational bathing, and having a depth of two feet or more at any point, and with a surface area exceeding 150 square feet.

Cross reference--Definitions generally, § 1-2.

Section 18-212. **Enforcement officer specified.**

The building official is authorized and directed to administer and enforce the provisions of this article.

Cross reference--Officers and employees, § 2-61 et seq.

Section 18-213. **Design and construction requirements.**

The design and construction of all private residential swimming pools shall comply with the following:

- (a) *Structural design.* The pool structure shall be engineered and designed to withstand the expected forces to which it will be subjected.
- (b) *Overflow and surface design.* The pool and surrounding area shall be constructed and arranged in such a manner that no splash or overflow water shall return to the pool. No surface or roof drainage shall be permitted to enter the pool.
- (c) *Finish.* Pool floor and walls shall have a cleanable, white or similar light-colored and impermeable surface.
- (d) *Handholds.* Handholds shall be provided and shall not be more than nine inches above the normal waterline and shall extend around the entire periphery of the pool.
- (e) *Pool deck.* Unobstructed deck areas not less than 48 inches wide shall be provided to extend entirely around the pool. The deck surface shall have a pitch of at least one-fourth inch to the foot, designed so as to prevent back drainage into the pool. If the deck drains are provided, drain pipe lines shall be at least two inches in diameter and drain openings shall have an open area of at least four times the cross sectional area of the drain pipe.

The deck drain system shall be indirect connection to the recirculation system piping. No deck, other than the ground surface, shall be required for any pool that is totally above ground and which is less than four feet in height.

- (f) *Steps or ladders.* One or more means of egress in the form of steps or ladders shall be provided from any pool having a water depth of 36 inches or more. Treads of steps and ladders shall be equipped with nonslip material.
- (g) *Plumbing.* All supply and waste piping connected to such swimming pool shall be installed in accordance with the state plumbing code.
- (h) *Water supply.* The water supply serving the swimming pool shall be potable water or of a quality otherwise acceptable to the building official. All portions of the water distribution system serving the swimming pool and auxiliary facilities shall be protected against backflow. Water introduced into the pool, either directly or to the recirculation system, shall be supplied through an air gap in accordance with the state plumbing code. When such connections are not possible, the supply shall be protected by a suitable backflow preventer in accordance with the state plumbing code, installed on the discharge side of the last control to the fixture, device or appurtenance.
- (i) *Drainage.* Pools shall be equipped with facilities for completely emptying the pool to the sanitary sewer, or other suitable disposal unit acceptable to the building official. There shall be no direct physical connection between the sewer system and any drain from the swimming pool or recirculation system. Any swimming pool or gutter drain or overflow from the recirculation system when discharged to the sewer system, storm drain, or other approved natural drainage course shall connect through a suitable air gap or air break so as to preclude the possibility of backup of sewer or waste into the swimming pool piping system. The water from the pool shall not be drained on the streets or sidewalk or any other public property or private property not owned by the pool owner.
- (j) *Heaters.* All gas-fired or oil burning swimming pool heaters and builders shall comply with the plumbing code and heating code of the city.

Section 18-214.

Electrical requirements.

- (a) All electrical installations provided for, installed and used in conjunction with a residential swimming pool or portable swimming pool shall conform with the state electrical code.
- (b) The following parts of swimming pools shall not be placed under existing service-drop conductors or any other open overhead wiring; nor shall such wiring be installed above the following:
 - (1) Swimming pool and the area extending ten feet horizontally from the inside of the walls of the pool.
 - (2) Diving structure.
 - (3) Observation stands, towers or platforms.
- (c) All metal fences, enclosures or railings near or adjacent to a private residential swimming pool or portable swimming pool, which might become electrically alive as a result of contact with broken overhead conductors, or from any other cause, shall be effectively grounded.

- (d) Lighting, when used to illuminate any swimming pool, shall be so arranged and shaded as to reflect light away from adjoining premises.

Section 18-215. Chemical treatment.

Gaseous chlorinating systems shall not be used as a disinfecting method for a private residential swimming pool or portable swimming pool. Below ground pools shall meet the requirements for recirculation, disinfection and water quality maintenance as required for public swimming pools as set forth in the department of health miscellaneous environmental health rules (Minnesota Rules, Part 4717.0100 to 4717.3900).

Section 18-216. Fences.

Outdoor private residential swimming pools shall be protected by a fence, wall or building or other enclosure or any combination thereof. All fence openings or points of entry into the pool area enclosure shall be equipped with gates. The fence and gates shall be at least four feet in height. All gates shall be equipped with self-closing and self-latching devices placed at the top of the gate or otherwise inaccessible to small children and provided with hardware for permanent locking devices. The openings between the bottom of the fence and the ground surface shall not be more than four inches.

Section 18-217. Approval of other design and equipment.

Any swimming pool, the design and equipment of which incorporates features other than those set forth in this article, shall be subjected to review and approved by the building official in accordance with acceptable standards and in conformance with current public health and safety practices.

Section 18-218. Location.

No portion of a swimming pool or appurtenances thereto shall be located from the lot line at a distance less than that required for side yard for a one-story principal building, as set forth in the chapter 74.

Section 18-219. Dangers to life and health prohibited.

No private residential swimming pool or portable swimming pool shall be used, kept, maintained or operated in the city if such use, keeping, maintaining or operating shall be the occasion of any nuisance shall be dangerous to life or detrimental or health.

Sections 18-220--18-235. Reserved.