



TOWN OF LOS GATOS

SWIMMING POOL CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

Common Requirements for Swimming Pool Construction

- Pool barriers must be installed prior to filling of pool. Pre-plaster inspection will not be signed off without completion of the installation of the pool barriers. Pool Barriers must comply with the requirements of Sec. 3109.4.4.2 of the 2016 California Building Code and the Los Gatos Ordinance No. 1940. Both requirements could be satisfied with the construction of a fence around the pool which conforms to the 2016 CBC (see page two for specific construction specifications).
- Mechanical equipment installed in accordance with their listing and the manufacturer's instructions.
- Gas pipe diameter to be in accordance with manufacturer's recommendation for pool heater or 1 ¼ inches in diameter (maximum dedicated line length 100 feet) or whichever is greater. CPC Table 1216.2(1)
- At least one convenience (GFCI-120V) receptacle is required between 10' and 20' from the pool. No receptacles within 10' of pool except single, locking type GFCI protected receptacles for water pumps. All electrical receptacles, within 20' of pool, need to be GFCI protected. NEC 680-22
- Lighting fixtures may not be installed less than 5' horizontally from the inside walls of a pool unless 12' above water surface. Existing fixtures must be at least 5' feet above water surface and GFCI protected. Lighting fixtures and lighting outlets installed in the area extending between 5' and 10' from inside walls of pool shall be GFCI protected unless 5' above maximum water level. NEC 680-22.
- All metal surfaces within 5' of the inside edge of pool wall must be bonded with minimum no. 8 bonding conductor NEC 680-26. Light niches, diving board, pool ladder, deck steel, and junction boxes are some of the most commonly bonded pool elements.
- Hose bibs or pool piping that supply water to the pool must have a listed backflow protection. CPC 503.5.5
- Pool and Spa Equipment (Tile 24 Sections 110.4, 110.5 and 150(p)):
 - a. The system is listed in the Energy Commission's Directory of Certified Equipment, on-off switch, weatherproof operating instructions, no electric resistance heating, and no standing pilot light.
 - b. System is installed with at least a 36" pipe between filter and heater for future solar heating.
 - c. A cover for outdoor pools or outdoor spa that have a heat pump or gas heater.
 - d. Pools shall have directional inlets that adequately mix the pool water.
 - e. The pool water circulation control system shall have a time switch to allow all pumps to be set to run only during off-peak electric demand period and for minimum time to maintain the water conditions per public health standards.
- Prior to final inspection, an accessible clean-out or an approved landscape discharge area (ponding area) for servicing pool (i.e., back-washing filter system, pumping water from the pool for repair or plastering work) shall be provided per Town Ordinance No. 1940.

(OVER)

The 2016 California Building Code, Section 3109.4.4.2 requires a swimming pool for a single family home to be equipped with at least one of the following safety features

1. The pool shall be isolated from access to a home by an enclosure that meets the requirements of section 3109.4.4.2.
Section 3109.4.4.3, an enclosure shall have all of the following characteristics:
 - a.) Any access gates through the enclosure open away from the swimming pool, and are self-closing with a self-latching device placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground.
 - b.) A minimum height of 60 inches.
 - c.) A maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure of 2 inches. Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than 4 inches in diameter.
 - d.) An outside surface free of protrusions, cavities, or other physical characteristics that would serve as handholds or footholds that could enable a child below the age of 5 to climb over.
2. The pool shall be equipped with an approved safety pool cover.
3. The residence shall be equipped with exit alarms on those doors providing direct access to the pool.
4. All doors providing direct access from the home to the swimming pool shall be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor.
5. Other means of protection, if the degree of protection afforded is equal to or greater than afforded by any of the devices set forth in Items 1-4, inclusive, as determined by the Town of Los Gatos Building Official.

The requirements of the article shall not apply to any of the following:

1. Public swimming pools.
2. Hot tubs or spas with locking safety covers that comply with the American Society for Testing Materials—Emergency Performance Specification (ASTM F1346-91).
3. Any pool within the jurisdiction of any political subdivision that adopts an ordinance for swimming pool safety that includes requirements that are at least as stringent as this article.
4. An apartment complex or any residential setting other than a single family home.

The Los Gatos Town Code, Sec. 29.10.09020, also requires the premises with a swimming pool to be enclosed with a fence.

The fence shall be constructed as follows:

1. Five (5) foot high fence
2. Opening, holes or gaps in fence shall not exceed four (4) inches
3. Each gate shall be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device
4. Gate latching device shall be at least three and one half feet high (3.5')
5. The bottom of fence and gate shall be constructed within four (4) inches of finished grade

A fence constructed per the 2016 California Code which completely encloses a swimming pool will also meet the requirements of the Los Gatos Town Code.