



Mike Lara,  
Director

## COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND SAFETY

### BARRIERS FOR SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS

Dear Homeowner:

This notice will advise you that a permit for a swimming pool has been applied for on your behalf as owner of the property listed by address below. You should be aware that under the provisions of Riverside County Ordinance No. 421, certain requirements must be complied with concurrent with the building or installation of an outside swimming pool, including an in-ground, above ground or on ground pool, hot tub or spa. These requirements apply to all pools, hot tubs and spas permitted on or after April 6, 2006. **An outdoor swimming pool, hot tub or spa shall be provided with a barrier that shall be installed, inspected and approved prior to plastering or filling with water.** For your convenience we have listed below a verbatim copy of those requirements:

**Ordinance No. 421 Section 3. Barrier Requirements** – Every person in possession of land within the County, either as owner, purchaser under contract, lessee, tenant or licensee, upon which is situated a swimming pool, spa or similar facility, shall meet the following requirements:

- 3.1 Outdoor Swimming Pool - An outdoor swimming pool shall be provided with a barrier that shall comply with all of the following:
  - 3.1.1. The top of the barrier shall be at least sixty (60) inches above grade, measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance at the bottom of the barrier may be increased to 4 inches when grade is a solid surface such as a concrete deck, or when the barrier is mounted on the top of the aboveground pool structure. When barriers have horizontal members spaced less than 45 inches apart, the horizontal members shall be placed on the poolside of the barrier.
  - 3.1.2. On the side away from the swimming pool, the barrier shall be free of protrusions, indentations, cavities or cutouts, or other physical characteristics which render the barrier easily climbable.
  - 3.1.3. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a one and three quarter (1-3/4) inch diameter sphere.

**EXCEPTIONS:**

- (A) When vertical spacing between such openings is 45 inches or more, the opening size may be increased such that the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere is not allowed.
  - (B) For fencing composed of vertical and horizontal members, the spacing between vertical Members may be increased up to 4 inches when the distance between the tops of horizontal members is 45 inches or more.
- 3.1.4 Chain link fences used as the barrier. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a one and one-fourth inch square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or the bottom, which reduce the opening to no more than one and three-fourths inches. All chain link fence wires shall not be less than eleven (11) gauge.
  - 3.1.5. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Items 3.1.1 through 3.1.4. Pedestrian access gates shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, (1) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the barrier at least 3 inches below the top of the gate, and (2) the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism. Pedestrian gates shall swing away from the pool. Any gates other than pedestrian access gates shall be equipped with either (1) a permanent automatic closing device or system with electrical power source; or (2) lockable hardware or padlocks. These gates shall remain locked at all times when not in use.

3.1.6. Where a wall of a Group R, Division 3 Occupancy dwelling unit serves as part of the barrier and contains door openings between the dwelling unit and the outdoor swimming pool that provides direct access to the pool, a separation fence meeting the requirements of Items 3.1.1 through 3.1.5 shall be provided.

**EXCEPTION:** When approved by the building official or his designees performing the inspection, one or both of the following may be used:

- (A) Self-closing and self-latching devices installed on all doors (except sliding glass doors) with direct access to the pool with the release mechanism located a minimum of fifty-four (54) inches above the floor.
- (B) An alarm installed on all doors, including sliding glass doors, with direct access to the pool. The alarm shall sound continuously for a minimum of thirty (30) seconds within seven seconds after the door and its screen, if present, are opened, and be capable of providing a sound pressure level of not less than 85 dBA when measured indoors at 10 feet. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm system shall be equipped with a manual means, such as a touchpad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last no longer than fifteen (15) seconds. The deactivation switch shall be located at least fifty-four (54) inches above the threshold of the door.

3.1.7. Where an above ground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps, then (1) the ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access or (2) the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier that meets the requirements of Items 3.1.1 through 3.1.6. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall be protected by a barrier complying with Sub-Sections 3.1.1 through 3.1.6.

**Ordinance No. 421 Section 4.** For an indoor swimming pool, protection shall comply with the requirements Of Sub-Section 3.1.6.

**Ordinance No. 421 Section 5.** For a nonself-contained spa or hot tub, protection shall comply with the requirements of Section 3.

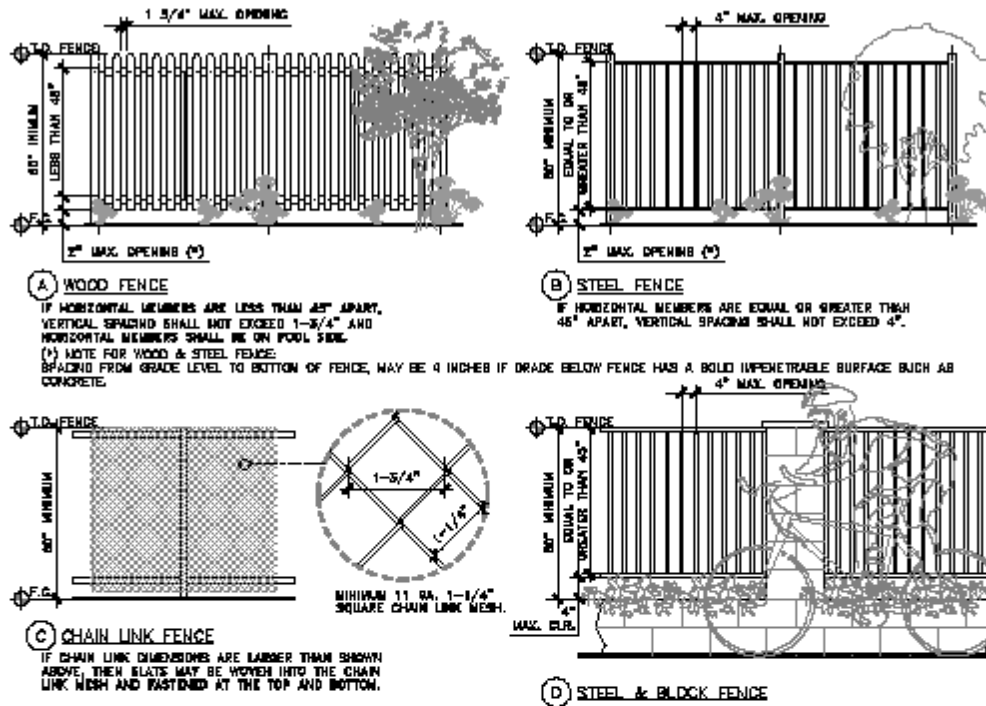
**EXCEPTION:** A self-contained spa or hot tub equipped with a listed safety cover which complies with the American Society for Testing and Material-Emergency Performance Specifications (ASTM F1346-91) shall be exempt from the requirements of Section 3.

THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY THE HOMEOWNER AND RETURNED TO THE BUILDING OFFICIAL OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF THE POOL OR SPA PERMIT

Permit No. \_\_\_\_\_ Use of Permit \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

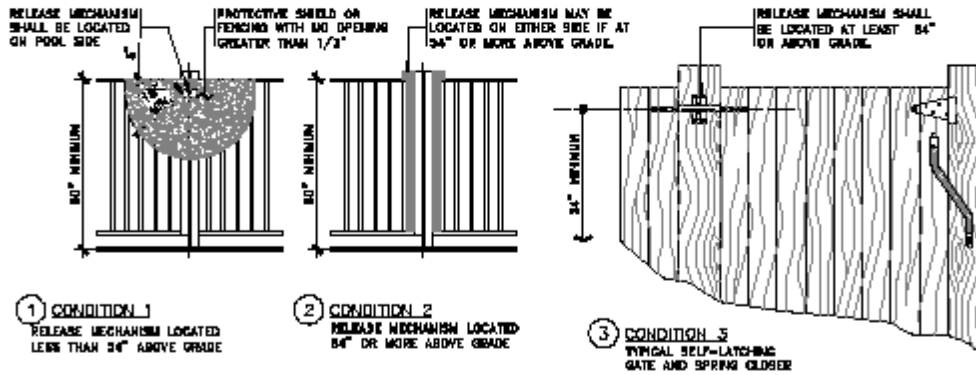
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND SAFETY



**VARIOUS POOL FENCE TYPES.**

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



**GATE LATCHING REQUIREMENTS**

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

<b>PROJECT INFO:</b> VARIOUS POOL FENCE TYPES and GATE LATCHING REQUIREMENTS / 2001 CBC	MAY 2003
	Dwg. No: 284 17A