

MINIMUM CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS & SPAS

This list is a guide for minimum requirements per Kern County Code of Building Regulations (KCCBR), Health and Safety Code (HSC), 2025 CA Residential Code (CRC), 2025 CA Mechanical Code, 2025 CA Plumbing Code, 2025 CA Electrical Code, and the 2025 CA Energy Code (CEC). It is not intended as an all-inclusive list of applicable code requirements.

- Per HSC §115922(a) (Pool and Spa Safety Act of 2006), and as amended by KCCBR, whenever a construction permit is issued for construction of a new swimming pool or spa, or any building permit is issued for remodeling of an existing pool or spa, at a private, single-family home, it shall be equipped with at least **two** of the following items:
 - 1) An enclosure that meets the requirements of Section 115923 and isolates the swimming pool or spa from the private single-family home.
 - 2) Removable mesh fencing that meets the ASTM International F2286 standard in conjunction with a gate that is self-closing and self-latching and can accommodate a key lockable device.
 - 3) A manually operated or power-operated safety pool cover that is accompanied by a label verifying that the cover meets the specifications of the ASTM International F1346-23 standard.
 - 4) Exit alarms on the private single-family home's doors and windows that provide direct access to the swimming pool or spa without any intervening enclosure. Whenever any door or window is opened or left ajar, exit alarms shall make either an audible, continuous alarm sound or a repeating verbal warning, such as a notification that "the door to the pool is open." An exit alarm may be battery operated or connected to the electrical wiring of the building.
 - 5) A self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor on the private single-family home's doors providing direct access to the swimming pool or spa.
 - 6) An alarm in good repair and operable as designed that, when placed in a swimming pool or spa, will sound upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. The alarm shall meet and be independently certified to the ASTM International F2208 standard that includes surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser, and infrared type alarms. A swimming protection alarm feature designed for individual use, including an alarm attached to a child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water, is not a qualifying drowning prevention safety feature.
 - 7) Other means of protection, if the degree of protection afforded is equal to or greater than that afforded by any of the features set forth above and has been independently verified by an approved testing laboratory as meeting standards for those features established by ASTM International, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, or another nationally recognized standards development organization, and the feature is accompanied by a label verifying that the protection meets those standards.

The requirements of subdivision (a) above are not satisfied by any of the following:

- 1) An exit alarm and a self-closing, self-latching device on the same door
 - 2) An exit alarm and a door latch on separate doors
 - 3) A safety pool cover and a pool alarm (number 6 above)
- Per HSC §115923, 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 two inches.
 - d) Gaps or voids, if any, do not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than four inches in diameter.
 - e) 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 five years to climb over.
 - Per CBC §115924, any person entering into an agreement to build a swimming pool or spa, or to engage in permitted work on a pool or spa, shall give the consumer notice of the requirements of pool safety information pursuant to existing law. Refer to this section for more information.
 - Per HSC §115928, whenever a building permit is issued for the construction of a new swimming pool or spa, it shall meet **all** of the following requirements:
 - a) 1) The suction outlets of the pool or spa for which the permit is issued shall be equipped to provide circulation throughout the pool or spa as prescribed in paragraphs (2) and (3).
 - 2) The swimming pool or spa shall either have at least two circulation suction outlets per pump that shall be hydraulically balanced and symmetrically plumbed through one or more "T" fittings, and that are separated by a distance of at least three feet in any dimension between the suction outlets, or be designed to use alternatives to suction outlets, including, but not limited to, skimmers or perimeter overflow systems to conduct water to the recirculation pump.

- 3) The circulation system shall have the capacity to provide a complete turnover of pool water, as specified in Section 3124B of Chapter 31B of the California Building Standards Code (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations).
 - b) Suction outlets shall be covered with antientrapment grates, as specified in the ANSI/APSP-16 performance standard or successor standard designated by the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission, that cannot be removed except with the use of tools. Slots or openings in the grates or similar protective devices shall be of a shape, area, and arrangement that would prevent physical entrapment and would not pose any suction hazard to bathers.
 - c) Any backup safety system that an owner of a new swimming pool or spa may choose to install in addition to the requirements set forth in subdivisions (a) and (b) shall meet the standards as published in the document, "Guidelines for Entrapment Hazards: Making Pools and Spas Safer," Publication Number 363, March 2005, United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- Per HSC §115928, Whenever a building permit is issued for the remodel or modification of an existing swimming pool, toddler pool, or spa, the permit shall require that the suction outlet or suction outlets of the existing swimming pool, toddler pool, or spa be upgraded so as to be equipped with antientrapment grates, as specified in the ANSI/APSP-16 performance standard or a successor standard designated by the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission.
 - Per CRC §R324.4.5, glazing in walls, enclosures or fences containing or adjacent to swimming pools and spas must be safety glazing if the bottom edge of the glazing is less than 60 inches above the pool side of the glazing and within 5 feet of the pool or spa water's edge.
 - Swimming pools and spas shall conform to Article 680 of the latest edition of California Electric Code.
 - Per CEC §110.4, the following are mandatory measures for pool and spa system and equipment.
 - a) Manufacturer certification provided confirming the pool/spa heater complies with applicable energy efficiency standards, includes an accessible exterior on/off switch, and has a permanent, weatherproof energy efficiency label with operating instructions
 - b) Installation requirements met, including heating equipment selected in accordance with Table 110.4-A, minimum 18 inches of piping or solar-ready provisions, pool cover for outdoor gas/electric heated pools or spas, and (for pools) directional inlets with a permanently installed time switch or programmable circulation control to limit pump operation to off-peak and minimum required run times
 - c) Heating source sizing complied with, where the pool/spa heating system meets one approved sizing option (solar, heat pump, renewable/recovered energy, approved combination, or Executive Director–approved equivalent), with applicable exceptions allowed for portable spas, existing systems, solar-only systems, and qualifying permanent spas.
 - d) Heat pump controls provided, ensuring supplemental heating operates only when the heat pump alone cannot meet the load, and that heat pump cut-on and cut-off temperatures are set higher than those of the supplemental heater
 - Per CEC §110.5, where pool heaters and spa heaters are installed without continuously burning pilot lights, a natural gas system or equipment may be installed.
 - Pump sizing and flow rate including system piping shall comply with the requirements of CEC §150.0(p).
 - Permit applicant shall complete and submit **CF2R-PLB-03-E** form to building inspector.
 - Inspection will be required for swimming pools for each of the following phases:
 - 1) Prior to concrete placement (gunite).
 - 2) Prior to plaster. All required safety features shall be permanently installed prior to this inspection.
 - 3) Final inspection.

By signing this form, I agree to comply with the Minimum Code Requirements for Private Swimming Pools & Spas.

Signature

of applicant: _____ **Date:** _____