

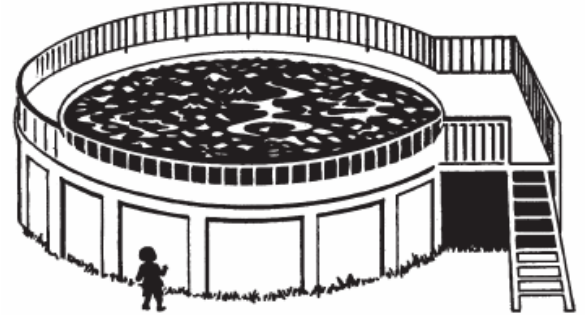
# Above Ground Private Residential Pools and Spas

## Important Information for Customers

*Congratulations on the purchase of your new above-ground pool! Pools can be a lot of fun for the whole family and there is important information that you need know before installing your pool.*

### *Did You Know...*

- Among children ages 1 to 4 years, most drownings happen in residential swimming pools. Most young children who drowned in pools were last seen in the home, had been out of sight less than 5 minutes, and were in the care of one or both parents at the time. (Washington State Dept of Health)
- Drowning is the second leading cause of injury-related death for children ages 1-14 in the U.S.



Children are attracted to water. They can easily slip out the door to the pool or spa and fall in if there is no barrier. Once a child falls in, they usually don't scream for help, they simply slip under the water.

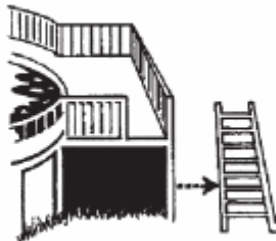
### *New Barrier Requirements for Pools and Spas in Washington State*

**There are new Washington State building code requirements for residential pools and spas that will start July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. These requirements apply to above-ground pools or pools that hold over 24 inches of water (2006 International Building Code, Appendix G, Section AG102).**

### **For Above Ground Pools**

There are two barrier options for these types of pools to prevent children from gaining unsupervised access to the pool. For most pools it will be securing, locking or removing the steps or ladder. The steps or ladders really need to be such that kids cannot get them.

1.) The steps/ ladder pool can be removed



2.) The steps or ladder can be surrounded by a barrier



If the second barrier option is used for the above-ground pool, the barrier must meet regulation standards as well. These are as follows:

- A 4-sided barrier that is **at least** 4 feet high and surrounds the pool or spa. The gate for this barrier needs to be out of the child's reach and self-closing/self latching:
  - the latch releasing mechanism for the gate should be **at least 3 inches below the top of the gate on the side facing the pool.**
  - the gate should not have an opening **greater than 1/2 inch** within **18 inches** of the latch releasing mechanism.

Examples of fences that meet the regulations:

- Solid barriers/ fences need to be **at least** 48 inches high and gaps between the fence and ground need to be less than 2 inches.
- Barriers and fences with vertical spacing. *Note: spacing measurements can vary. Please go to website below for more information*
- Chain link or mesh fences: the **maximum** mesh size for these types of fences is **2.25 inches diagonally and 3.18 inches across horizontally.** Using slats in chain link type fences can help reduce the ability for a child to climb over.
- Self-latching/ self-closing gates: *please see above about specific measurements for latch releasing mechanisms.*

\* For more specific information about these barriers please contact **your local building official** -<http://www.wabo.org/jurisdiction/map.html> or the **Washington State Building Code Council** - <http://www.sbccc.wa.gov/sbcccindx.html>.

**About insurance:** When you install a pool in your home, it is your responsibility to **contact your insurance agency** about your new pool or spa to make sure you have proper coverage from your homeowner's insurance. Your insurance agent should be aware of these new barrier regulations and how they may affect your current policy.

Please understand and comply with these new barrier requirements as they are part of a state-wide regulation. This will also help prevent drownings among children in backyard pools and keep your family and friends safe.

For more information please go to:

- **Association of Pool and Spa Professionals** - [www.theapsp.org](http://www.theapsp.org)
- **U.S. Consumer Safety Product Commission** – <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/chdrown.html>.
- **Your local public health department** - <http://www.doh.wa.gov/LHJMap/LHJMap.htm>
- **Injury Fact Sheets**-[http://www.usa.safekids.org/content\\_documents/Drowning\\_facts.pdf](http://www.usa.safekids.org/content_documents/Drowning_facts.pdf)  
Clear Danger: A National Study of Childhood Drowning and Related Attitudes and Behaviors (2004) - <http://www.usa.safekids.org/NSKW.cfm>
- **Injury and Violence Prevention, Public Health- Seattle & King County**  
Pool and Water Safety  
<http://www.metrokc.gov/HEALTH/injury/drowning.htm>
- **Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center**  
Drowning Prevention and Water Safety Information  
[www.seattlechildrens.org/dp/](http://www.seattlechildrens.org/dp/) or [www.drowning-prevention.org](http://www.drowning-prevention.org)
- **Safe Kids USA** - <http://www.usa.safekids.org/index.cfm>

Produced by Public Health-Seattle & King County, Camille Samujh, MPH & Tony Gomez, RS. Grant funding by Safe Kids Worldwide through Washington State Department of Health, June 2007