



Drowning Prevention Safety Measures

As of January 1, 2018, new and remodeled swimming pool/spa shall be equipped with at least 2 of 7 specified drowning prevention safety features to reduce the serious risk of drowning



1. An enclosure that meets the requirements of Section 115923 and isolates the swimming pool or spa from the private single-family home. An “Enclosure” means a fence, wall, or another barrier that isolates a swimming pool from access to the home. Compliance with this section includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Any access gates through the enclosure must open away from the swimming pool, and must be self-closing with a self-latching device placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground.
 - The enclosure must be a minimum height of 60 inches, measured from the side of the enclosure that faces away from the swimming pool/spa.
 - Access gates shall open away from the pool and have a self-closing, self-latching device located no lower than 60 inches above the ground; barrier shall have no openings within 18 inches of the release mechanism.
 - The maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure shall be no more than 2 inches to rough grade and no more than 4 inches to hardscape.
 - Any gaps or voids in the enclosure shall not allow passage of a sphere equal to or greater than 4 inches.
 - The outside surface shall be 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 the enclosure.
 - The enclosure shall isolate the swimming pool or spa from the private single-family home. [Health and Safety Code 511922 (a)(1)]
2. A removable mesh fencing that meets American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Specifications F2286 standards in conjunction with a gate that is self-closing and self-latching and can accommodate a key lockable device. Must comply with the fence and gate requirements shown elsewhere in this code.
3. An approved safety pool cover, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 115921. This is an ASTM F1346-91 compliant automatic or manual pool cover.
4. Exit alarms on the private single-family home’s doors that provide direct access to the swimming pool or spa. The exit alarm may cause either an alarm noise or a verbal warning, such as a repeating notification that “the door to the pool is open.” Exit alarms are also required on ANY door or window that permits access from the residence to the pool area without an enclosure between the pool and the home. The exit alarm must make a continuous audible sound when the door or window is open and ajar.
 - Alarms shall be permanently affixed.
 - Provide the product specifications and UL listing for any proposed door alarm system on site for inspector’s review at pre-plaster inspection.

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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; required on ANY door opening in to the pool area.
6. An alarm 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 Standard F2208 "Standard Safety Specification for Residential Pool Alarms," which 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.
 - If a portion of the house or garage is used as part of the barrier or fence, that portion shall have alarms on all the doors giving direct access to the pool area.
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 the ASTM or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).



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