City of Central Point, Oregon

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Building Department

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Swimming Pool Safety

A swimming pool is defined as any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches deep. This includes both in ground and above ground swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas (Oregon Residential Specialty Code; ORSC Sec. AG102).

A building permit is required to install a swimming pool unless it is prefabricated and the walls are entirely above adjacent grade. Whether a permit is required or not, the installation must meet the following code requirements that are intended to provide protection against drownings and near drownings by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

Any swimming pool not totally enclosed by a structure must be enclosed by a substantial barrier or fence at least four feet in height. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier is two inches. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a four inch diameter sphere. The barrier must be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching gate except where bordered by a wall of an adjacent structure. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward, away from the pool, be self-closing, and have a self-latching device. The release mechanism for any gate must be 54" from the bottom of the gate, or located within 3" of the top of the gate on the pool side, and have no openings larger than ½" within 18". Where the wall of a dwelling unit is used as a barrier, all doorways through the wall must be equipped with approved self-closing and self-latching devices or equipped with an approved power safety cover (ORSC AG105).

The location of an in ground pool is regulated by the zoning code. Setback standards apply to all pools (Central Point Municipal Code, Chapter 15.22).

An electrical permit is required for a swimming pool.