



# SWIMMING POOLS REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

REVISED 10/16/2012

## TYPES OF POOLS

### Swimming Pool Type 1:

Any swimming pool constructed wholly or partially below the natural or graded surface of the surrounding area.



### Swimming Pool Type 2:

Any swimming pool constructed wholly above the surface of the terrain.



## SWIMMING POOL FENCES & ENCLOSURES

A fence shall enclose all private swimming pools type 1, and shall be at least four feet (4') in height above the grade. The fence shall be constructed as not to have any opening, holes, or gaps large enough for a child to use such fence as a ladder, and if a picket fence is erected, the space between pickets shall not exceed four inches (4"). A house or other building may be used as part of an enclosure. Each gate or door in fence, except a door or gate opening directly into a house shall be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device for keeping the gate or door securely closed at all times when not in use.



## POOL GUARD DOOR ALARMS

All houses that have doors with direct access to the pool shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and its screen are opened. (2003 Michigan Building Code)



## LADDER SAFETY

All swimming pools type 2 above ground shall be so constructed that the ladder, steps, or other means of access to the pools shall be removed or raised and firmly fastened in such a manner as to prevent use by children not under authorized supervision.

Swimming pools type 2, where the sides are not four feet (4') above the graded surface of surrounding area, must be fenced in the same manner as swimming pools type 1.



## PERMITS FOR POOLS

Prior to the construction or installation of a swimming pool, a building permit must be obtained from the Township Building Department. The fee for a building permit is \$35.00.

## INSPECTIONS

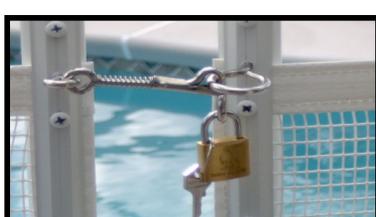
The exact location of the outside edge of a regulated swimming pool must be clearly marked. Call the Thomas Township Building Inspector for a pre installation swimming pool inspection by calling (989) 781-0150. A second and final inspection is required after the pool is filled and all fencing, gates, doors, filter, ladders, and required audible alarms are fully functional.

## POOL FILLING

Thomas Township Department of Public Works does not provide pool filling services. Please make arrangements to have your pool filled with water other than that from a Township Fire Hydrants.

## MICHIGAN BUILDING CODE

You must follow all provisions found in the Michigan Building Code under swimming pool enclosures and safety devices. Contact the Thomas Township Building Inspector for a copy of the provisions in the Michigan building code. This handout is only intended to highlight some fencing requirements and some safety requirements.



## SWIMMING POOL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

**Vacant Houses:** If pool is abandoned and not made safe the Township will have the authority to enter the property and make such pool safe. Per court order all cost of making such pool safe shall be a lien against the property on which said pool is located.

**Construction Standards:** Swimming pools shall be constructed in compliance with the applicable provisions of this ordinance.

**Electrical Wiring and Fixtures:** All electrical wiring and fixtures shall comply with the National Electrical Code at the time a swimming pool is installed.



## SWIMMING POOL ENCLOSURES AND SAFETY DEVICES SECTION 3109 of the Michigan Building Code Regulations

**3109.1 General.** Swimming pools shall comply with the requirements of this section and other applicable sections of this code.

**3109.2 Definition.** The following word and term shall, for the purposes of this section and as used elsewhere in this code have the meaning shown herein.

**SWIMMING POOLS.** Any structure intended for swimming, recreational bathing or wading that contains water over 24 inches (610mm) deep. This includes in-ground, above-ground and on-ground pools; hot tubs; spas and fixed-in-place wading pools.

**3109.4.1.4 Widely spaced horizontal members.** Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches (1143 mm) or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75 inches (44 mm) in width.

**3109.4.1.5 Chain link dimensions.** Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2.25 inch square (57 mm square) unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to no more than 1.75 inches (44 mm).

**3109.4.1.6 Diagonal members.** Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be no more than 1.75 inches (44 mm).

**3109.4.1.7 Gates.** Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Sections 3109.4.1.1 through 3109.4.1.6 and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate, and the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism.

**3109.4.1.8 Dwelling wall as a barrier.** Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following shall apply:

**3109.4.1.8.1 Barrier height and clearances.** The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches (51 mm) measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, the barrier is authorized to be at ground level or mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches (102 mm).

**1) 3109.4.1.8.1 Openings.** Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.

**3109.4.1.8.2 Solid barrier surfaces.** Solid which do not have opening shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.

**3109.4.1.8.3 Closely spaced horizontal members.** Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches (1143 mm), the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1.75 inches (44 mm) in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75 inches (44 mm) in width.



1.) Doors with direct access to the pool through tat wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and its screen are opened. The alarm shall sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds immediately after the door is opened and be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal household activities. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm shall be equipped with a manual means to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last no more than 15 seconds.

1. Deactivation switch shall be located at least 54 inches (1372 mm) above the threshold of the door.

2. The pool shall be equipped with a power safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346.

3. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the administrative authority, shall be accepted so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Section 3109.4.1.8 Item 1 or 2.

2) **3109.4.1.9 Pool Structure as barrier.** 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 the ladder or steps either shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access, or the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of Sections 3109.4.1.1 through 3109.4.1.8. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.