



Town of Portola Valley

General Notes for Residential Outdoor Swimming Pools and Spas **Pools shall not be filled without an approved barrier in place.**

1. ***Enclosure Requirements (per local zoning ordinance):***
 - A. When water depth exceeds twenty-four inches, a five-foot high fence or wall enclosure is required, either near the pool/spa or around a larger area of the property.
 - B. When vertical bars are used as a fence around a pool they shall not allow the passage of four-inch sphere.
 - C. Pedestrian access gates shall be self-closing and self-latching. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, (1) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the barrier at least 3 inches below the top of the gate, and (2) the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism. Pedestrian gates shall swing away from the pool. Any gates other than pedestrian access gates shall be equipped with lockable hardware or padlocks and shall remain locked at all times when not in use.
 - D. There shall not be more than two inches between grade and bottom of barrier/fence. (Four inches to a solid surface, i.e. concrete).
 - E. Chain link fence that is used the barrier shall be 11 gage and not have a horizontal opening greater than $1 \frac{3}{4}$ inches.
2. **Locking pool & spa covers are acceptable in lieu of enclosures.**
3. ***Electrical Requirements (per 2004 California Electric Code):***
 - A. Receptacles shall be at least 10' away; a single locking and grounding type outlet serving water-pump motor may be between 5' and 10' away. All within 20 feet shall be GFCI protected.
 - B. Lighting fixtures, lighting outlets, ceiling fans and switches shall comply with article 680-22.
 - C. Underwater lighting fixtures shall comply with Article 680-23.
 - D. All metal parts bonded per article 680-26.
 - E. All electrical fixtures and equipment grounded per Article 680-24.
 - F. See additional portions of Article 680 for requirements of specialty items (foundations, deck heater, electric pool covers, listed packaged spa units, indoor spas, etc.)
4. ***Energy Requirements (per the California Energy Commission):***
 - A. Heating equipment, including solar panels, must be CEC Certified.
 - B. If solar heating is not provided, at least 36" line of pipe is required between the filter and the heater to allow for the future addition of solar heating.
 - C. If solar heating is not provided, a pool/spa cover is required.

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Energy Requirements (per the California Energy Commission):

- D. Pools must have directional inlets that adequately mix the water.
 - E. Pool circulation pump must be time-switched for running in off-peak electric demand periods, subject to applicable public health standards.
5. **Pool equipment shall be enclosed, provide elevation/details on plans**
 6. **The suction outlet of the pool/spa shall be equipped with an anti-entrapment cover (AB 2977).**