Pool and spa requirements

Sec. 12-3. Private residential pools.

A) Scope. The requirements of this section shall apply to all private residential swimming pools, wading pools, hot tubs, or spas having a potential water depth greater than 24 inches at any point, and either a surface area exceeding 250 square feet or a potential water volume of over 3,250 gallons.

B) Permit required. No person may install, construct, move, or alter a private residential swimming pool, wading pool, hot tub, or spa without first obtaining a permit.

C) Fees. The applicant for a pool permit must pay the appropriate fee for the type of pool installation or construction requested. Such fees shall be set from time to time by the city and a schedule of such fees is listed in appendix A to this Code.

D) Requirements.

(1) All new equipment purchased or installed on any swimming pool shall comply with the National Sanitation Foundation Listings for Swimming Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs, when applicable. Equipment not covered by the standard must be preapproved by the city.

(2) Pool use is limited to swimming or bathing by the family or their invited guests. Supp. No. 38 (07-19) 12:3 St. Louis Park City Code

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(3) Fencing a minimum of four feet high from grade or other acceptable barrier, including but not limited to walls or buildings, providing equivalent restriction of access shall be provided to positively control all access to private swimming pools. Fencing shall be without handholds or footholds that would enable a child to climb over it and shall include gates at least four feet in height equipped with self-closing and self-latching apparatus capable of being locked. Openings in the gates or fence shall not allow a four-inch sphere to pass through. Maximum openings under gate and fences shall not exceed two inches.

(4) Water depth shall be plainly marked at or above the water surface on the vertical pool wall or on the edge of the deck or walk next to inground pools. Depth markings shall be located at the minimum and maximum points, at the points of change of slope between the deep and shallow portions of the pool, and at intermediate increments of depth spaced not more than 25 feet between markers.

(5) Decking at least three feet wide, measured from the pool water's edge, shall be provided, and shall extend completely around inground pools. Aboveground pools may be provided with decking a minimum of four feet by four feet at the pool entry points provided the decking complies with the building code. A self-closing and self-latching gate shall be installed at the top or bottom of the stairs.

Openings in the gate or fence shall not allow a four-inch sphere to pass through. Maximum openings under gates and fences shall not exceed two inches.

(6) All residential private pools with a depth greater than five feet shall be provided with an outlet at the deepest point to permit the pool to be completely emptied and to provide adequate circulation. The outlet opening shall be covered by grating which is securely fastened and not readily removable by bathers. The outlet openings in the floor of the pool shall be at least four times the area of the discharge pipe or provide sufficient area so the maximum velocity of water passing through the grate will not exceed 1 1/2 feet per second. The maximum width of the grate openings shall be one-half inch. An antivortex type drain may be used in lieu of grating.

(7) No person shall operate, maintain, or permit any swimming pool that creates a nuisance by annoying, injuring, or endangering the safety, health, comfort, or repose of the public. The city shall have access to inspect all pools and equipment as deemed necessary to enforce the provisions of this Code. When a private swimming pool is deemed to be in such a condition that endangers the health, safety or welfare of the public, the health authority may immediately close the pool and post a placard stating the closure. No one may remove the placard except the health authority.