

Private Swimming Pool Ordinances

Article li. Private Swimming Pools

Sec. 22-16. Definition.

In this article "private swimming pool" means any pool, tank, depression or excavation in or above ground, or other structure which shall cause retaining of water over a greater depth than eighteen (18) inches and/or having a larger plane surface of water greater than one hundred fifty (150) square feet and which shall be designed or used for swimming, wading or immersion purposes by individuals, used or intended to be used solely by the owner, lessee or tenant thereof and his family and by friends invited to use it without payment of any fees. (Code 1985, 309.01)

Sec. 22-17. Permit.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to construct, alter or repair a private swimming pool within the city without first having secured a permit therefor from the building official. An application for this permit shall be made on such forms as may be furnished by the city, and shall be accompanied by complete plans and specifications for the pool, including the type and location thereof with respect to the boundary lines of the land of the applicant. The applicant shall pay the fees established by resolution for such permit.

(b) The building official may revoke any permit for failure to comply with this article. Before a permit is revoked, the pool owner shall have notice in writing listing and describing the instances of failure to comply with this article. The permit shall be reissued upon proper application and upon presentation that the deficiencies causing revocation have been corrected. (Code 1985, 309.03, 309.04)

Sec. 22-18. Compliance with article.

It is unlawful for any person to own or maintain a private swimming pool that does not comply with this article. (Code 1985, 309.05)

Sec. 22-19. Modifications.

(a) The council may make modifications in this article in individual cases, upon showing of good cause, with respect to the height, nature or location of the fence or wall, gates or latches, or the necessity therefor, provided the degree of protection is not reduced thereby.

(b) The council may permit other protective devices or structures to be used so long as the degree of protection afforded by the substitute devices or structures is not less than the protection afforded by the fence, gate and latch described in this article. (Codes 1985, 309.11)

Sec. 22-20. Setback requirements; location generally; drainage generally.

Pools for which a permit is required under this article shall not be located within ten (10) feet of any side or rear lot line nor within six (6) feet of any principal structure or frost footing. Pools shall not be located closer than ten (10) feet to any portion of a private sewage system.

Pools shall not be located within any required front yard. Pools shall be drained to the street storm sewer system unless otherwise authorized by the city. (Code 1985, 309.06)

Sec. 22-21. Fences.

(a) All private swimming pools shall be completely surrounded by a fence or wall not less than four (4) feet in height, which shall be so constructed as not to have openings, holes or gaps larger than four (4) inches in vertical or horizontal direction, except for doors and gates. The fence shall be of a type not readily climbed by children. A dwelling or accessory building may be used as part of such enclosure. An above-ground pool with a wall greater than four (4) feet in height does not require a fence if the wall cannot be readily climbed by children.

(b) All gates or doors opening through such enclosure 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 actual use and be provided with hardware for permanent locking devices, except that the door of any dwelling which forms a part of the enclosure need not be so equipped. Pool gates shall be locked when the pool is not in use.

(c) When it is necessary to fill the pool prior to the installation of the required fencing, a temporary fence (such as snow fence) may be installed in a substantial manner; with the approval of the building official. The maximum time allowed for a temporary fence shall be thirty (30) days.

(d) Fences must comply with fence ordinances Chapter 6, Article IV, of this Code. (Code 1985, 309.07)

Sec. 22-22. Outdoor pool enclosures.

Outdoor pool enclosures, permanent or inflated shall be constructed in accordance with the *Minnesota State Building Code* including appendix Chapter 55 (membrane structures). Enclosures shall be of a neutral color and designed to blend with the existing surroundings. The enclosure shall not exceed in height, the principal structure on the property nor shall the enclosure be more than eighteen (18) feet high. The enclosure requires a special use permit. (Code 1985, 309.08)

Sec. 22-23. Above-ground pools.

Above-ground private swimming pools shall be protected in such a way that access ways, other than those afforded by the dwelling house or accessory buildings, shall be equipped with self-closing and self-latching gates or doors so these gates or doors are kept securely closed at all times when not in actual use. (Code 1985, 309.09)

Sec. 22-24. Pool covers.

Pool covers, whether they can be locked or not, do not alone meet public safety requirements if the cover is of the type that can collect and hold natural water.

Sec. 22-25. Lighting, ventilation and electrical requirements.

(a) Where underwater lighting is used, such lights shall be spaced to provide illumination so that all portions of the pool and pool bottom may be readily seen without glare.

(b) All electrical wiring shall conform with the *National Electrical Code* approved by the National Fire Protection Association and shall be approved by the National Underwriters Laboratory and the state electrical inspector, with particular reference to Article 680-20 (of the *National Electrical Code*).

(c) Each underwater light shall be individually grounded by means of a screwed or bolted connection to the metal junction boxes which the branch circuit to the individual light precedes. Such junction boxes shall not be located in the pool deck.

(d) Service drop conductors and any other open overhead wiring shall not be installed above the swimming pool or surrounding area extending ten (10) feet horizontally from the pool edge, or dividing structure, observation stands, towers or platforms. (Code 1985, 309.12, 309.13)

Sec. 22-26. Shielding lights.

Lights used to illuminate any private swimming pool shall be so arranged and shaded as to reflect light away from adjoining premises. (Code 1985, 309.14)

Sec. 22-27. Life-saving and emergency equipment.

All private swimming pools shall have:

(1) Life-saving equipment consisting of at least:

- a. One (1) ring buoy not more than fifteen (15) inches in diameter to which is attached a rope three-sixteenths-inch in diameter and of a length at least equal to the greatest dimension of the swimming pool.
- b. One (1) life pole, or shepherd's crook type of pole, at least ten (10) feet long and having blunted ends, shall be provided.

(2) Emergency flood lighting that is electrically connected to a different circuit than used by the pool.

The emergency equipment shall be used for emergency purposes only. (Code 1985, 309.15)

Sec. 22-28. Polluted water.

(a) No body of water, whether it be a natural or an artificial body of water in the city, which contains sewage, waste, or other contaminating or polluting ingredients rendering the water hazardous to health shall be used for swimming or bathing by any person or persons.

(b) Water shall not be allowed to remain in any unused or abandoned pool. (Code 1985, 309.16)

Sec. 22-29. City water supply.

There will be no cross-connections of the city water supply with any other source of water supply for the pool. The line from the city water supply to the pool shall be protected against backflow of polluted water by means of either an air gap, vacuum breaker or other adequate device to prevent back siphonage. (Code 1985, 309.17)

Sec. 22-30. Bacteriological quality of water.

A sample of private swimming pool water shall be considered satisfactory when the total bacterial count at thirty-five (35) degrees centigrade does not exceed two hundred (200) colonies per milliliter and no organisms of the *E. Coli* group are present in a ten (10) milliliter portion or one hundred (100) milliliter portion as determined by the membrane filter method. If more than one (1) sample out of seven (7) collected on different dates is unsatisfactory procedures and interpretations relating to bacteriological quality shall be done in accordance with the *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water, Sewage and Industrial Wastes*, 11th edition (1960). (Code 1985, 309.17)

Sec. 22-31. Pool filters.

(a) Every private swimming pool shall be equipped with a recirculating system capable of filtering the entire contents of the pool in twelve (12) hours or less.

(b) Filters shall be capable of maintaining the clarity of the water to permit the ready identification, through an eight-foot depth of water, of a disc two (2) inches in diameter which is divided into four (4) quadrants in alternate colors of red and white.

(c) Filter capacity shall be such that it need not be cleaned more frequently than once every 4 days under proper conditions of water and operation.

(d) All pressure filters shall be equipped with influent and effluent pressure gauges to determine the pressure differential and frequency of cleaning. All other filters shall be equipped with at least one (1) pressure vacuum or compound gauge, as applicable, which shall be positioned in such a way as to determine the differential across the filter and the need of cleaning.

(e) All pressure filter systems shall be equipped with an air release at the high point in the system.

(f) Operating instructions shall be posted on every filter system. All valves shall be properly designated, indicating their purpose.

(g) When dissimilar metals are used in the construction of the filter, which may set up galvanic currents, then suitable provision shall be made to resist electrolytic corrosion.

(h) Filters shall be so designed and installed that they can be readily disassembled and the filter elements removed. (Code 1985, 309.19)

Sec. 22-32. Disinfection and chemical conditioning.

(a) Provision shall be made for the introduction into each private swimming pool water of accurate and controlled applications of a disinfectant in sufficient quantities to attain and maintain efficient bactericidal action while the pool is in use.

(b) Suitable methods shall be available to maintain a pH of the pool water between 7.2 and 8.2 and to maintain an alkalinity of not less than 50 ppm.

(c) The devices used to apply chlorine or its equivalent as a disinfectant shall be of such capacity as to maintain in all areas of the swimming pool at all times at least 0.5 ppm of free available residual chlorine or a residual level of another approved disinfectant which shall be of at least a proven equivalent disinfecting strength as 0.5 ppm of free available residual chlorine. (Code 1985, 309.20)

Sec. 22-33. Chemical storage.

The storage of chemicals shall meet the requirements of the *Uniform Fire Code*. (Code 1985, 309.21)

Sec. 22-34. Unnecessary noise.

It shall be unlawful for any person to make, continue or cause to be made or continue at any private swimming pool or family pool any loud, unnecessary or unusual noise or any noise which annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace, or safety of others. In the operation of a swimming pool, the use or permitting the use or operation of any radio, receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph or other machine or device for the producing or reproducing of sound in such a manner as to disturb the peace, quiet, and comfort of the neighboring inhabitants or at any time with louder volume than is necessary for convenient hearing of the person or persons who are in the swimming pool premises shall be unlawful. (Code 1985, 309.22)