

Swimming Pool Rules and Regulations

In ground Swimming Pool (Type 1)



Any swimming pool constructed wholly or partially below the natural or graded surface of the surrounding area is considered a "Type 1" swimming pool.

Permit Requirements: Prior to the construction a "Type 1" swimming pool, a building permit must be obtained from the Thomas Township Building Department. The fee for a building permit is \$35.00.

Fencing Requirements: A four (4) foot fence is required to enclose all "Type 1" swimming pools. 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. If a picket fence is erected, the space between the pickets shall not exceed four (4") inches. A house or other building may be used as part of an enclosure. Each gate or door within the fence 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.

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 Township fire hydrants.

You may contact the Township Water Department to receive an estimated cost for filling your pool with your hose.

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. See the Building Inspector for other requirements from the Building Code, which may apply.



Inspection: The exact location of the outside edge of the swimming pool must be clearly marked.

Note: No swimming pool may be closer than the accessory structure setback for that Zoning District. Call the Thomas Township Building Inspector for a pre-installation swimming pool inspection at (989) 781-0150. A final inspection is required after the pool is filled and all fencing, gates, doors, filter, ladders and required audible alarms are fully functional.

Above-Ground Swimming Pools (type 2)



Any swimming pool constructed wholly above the surface of the ground is considered a "Type 2" swimming pool.

Permit Requirements: Prior to the construction a "Type 2" swimming pool, a building permit must be obtained from the Thomas Township Building Department. The fee for a building permit is \$35.00.

Fencing Requirements: Type 2 swimming pools (above ground) where the sides are not four (4) foot above the graded surface must be fenced in the same manner as Type 1 swimming pools. A fence shall enclose the entire swimming pool and must be at least four (4) feet in height above the grade. The fence shall be constructed as not to have any openings, holes or gaps large enough for a child to use such fence as a ladder. If a picket fence is erected, the space between pickets shall not exceed four (4") inches. A house or a building may be used as part of an enclosure and each gate or door shall be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device for keeping the gate or door securely closed at all times.

Ladder Safety: All Type 2 swimming pools 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 supervision.



Swimming Pool Safety Precautions:

Vacant Houses: If a 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 costs 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. Please refer to the Michigan Building Code Regulations Section 3109 or contact the Thomas Township Building Inspector at (989) 781-0150.

This is an excerpt from The Michigan Building Code Regulations - Section 3109. Please contact the Thomas Township Building Inspector for a full copy of this section of the Michigan Building Code.

3109.1 General. Swimming pools shall comply with the requirements of this section and other applicable section 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 (610 mm) deep. This includes in-ground, aboveground and on-ground pools, hot tubs, spas and fixed-in-lace wading pools

3109.4.1. Barrier Height and Clearances: The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches (1,219 mm) above grade measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and 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).

3109.4.1.1 Openings. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch diameter (102 mm) sphere.

3109.4.1.7 Gates. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Sections 31009.4.1.1. 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 (1,372 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.

**** This handout is intended only to highlight some fencing and safety requirements. All provisions found in the Michigan Building Code under swimming pool enclosures/safety devices must be followed including those found in the Michigan Plumbing and Electrical Codes that may apply. ****



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