



**CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY  
BUILDING DEPARTMENT  
(714) 593-4429  
RESIDENTIAL POOLS AND SPAS**

This handout applies to the most frequently asked questions and problems in the City of Fountain Valley. Pools/spas, (depth of 18" or greater), must conform to the current California Plumbing Code, the California Electrical Code, and the California Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa & Hot Tub Code.

### **Pool Plan Submittal**

1. 3 sets of site plans containing all the information required as shown on our sample site plan.
2. 2 sets of Engineering Plans and details. Wet-stamped.
3. Load calculations for the existing electrical service with the increased pool/spa equipment load if the current panel has less than a 200 amp rating.
4. All manufactured pools/spas must be listed and approved. IAPMO or ICC.

### **City of Fountain Valley Requirements**

1. Hydrostatic valve is required. A hydrostatic relief device shall be installed on all pools/spas built in areas of anticipated high water table. A minimum 18"X18"X24 gravel sump with a 1 1/2" French drain or similar dry well shall be provided.
2. Pools must be engineered to expansive soils unless a soils report is submitted
3. It is the homeowner's responsibility to check with their HOA for C.C.& R's relating to pools.
4. You are responsible for calling Underground Alert at 1-800-422-4133.
5. The pool equipment must discharge to an approved P trap located downstream from all plumbing fixtures which discharge into the sewer system.
6. A separate connection from the meter to the pool heater is required.

### **Plumbing/Gas**

1. Plumbing & Gas requirements are per the CPC or UPC. A handout for plumbing/gas installation is available.
2. A backflow prevention device is required at water supply inlet.
3. Pressure relief valve required at heater.
4. All drains must be anti-vortex type.

### **Energy**

1. Pool Cover or solar water heating required. For systems without solar heat, 36" minimum length of piping between the filter and the heater is required for future.
2. Time clocks for circulation pumps.
3. Directional inlets in pool shell for water mixing.

4. Heater must have electronic ignition, 78% efficiency, exterior on/off switch, and a permanent, legible, and weatherproof plate/card providing instructions for the most efficient pool operation.

## **Pollution Control**

All pool/spa water must discharge to the P-trap. \*

No material other than rain or irrigation water free of herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers is permitted to enter the City storm drain system. All cementitious products, tools, and wastes must be cleaned on site away from area drains which may discharge to the street. Do not wash down surfaces. All construction debris must be swept up and disposed of in a closeable container. Cement debris should be allowed to dry and disposed in the same manner.

## **Electrical**

1. All metallic parts of the pool structure and all exposed metal within 5' of the inside shell of the pool shall be bonded with #8 copper. Reinforced concrete decking included.
2. All pool wiring is to be installed in rigid conduit of SCH 80 above ground.
3. Underground conduit must be of an approved type. Non-metallic to be 18" below ground.
4. Pool lighting may be run in brass conduit from fixture shell to J-box. Non-metallic conduit is permitted, provided a #8 insulated copper grounding conductor is provided from light shell to J-box. J-box to be a minimum of 8" above maximum water level and a minimum of 4' from inside shell pool shell.
5. GFIs required for exterior receptacles, lights within 10' of water's edge and underwater lighting.
6. Lights must be a minimum 5' from inside pool wall. Outlets a min. of 10'.
7. Outlet is required is required between 10'-20' of inside pool shell and within 25' of equipment.
8. Low voltage lighting is to comply with Article 411 and 680 of the NEC.
9. A separate circuit is required for each motor.
10. Pool light niche must be a minimum of 18" below water level unless specifically listed for use for not less than 4" submerged.
11. Pool light ground is not to be spliced from J-box to panel servicing equipment.
12. Edison overhead service drop is not to hang closer than 18' above the highest possible water level and 14' from a diving platform.

## **Pool Barriers**

All pools must have barriers to prevent accidental drowning. There is no exception. Barriers are measured from grade on the side away from the pool.

1. Barriers must be between 5'-6' high. Gates must open away from pool.
2. Gates must be self-closing and self latching with the latching device a minimum of 60" above grade.
3. Barriers must not have openings larger than a 4" sphere. They must have a smooth surface without any possibility of footholds or handholds.

4. If the house/garage is used as part of the barrier, doors must meet one of the following:
  1. Equipped with listed approved pool alarms. Alarms must sound with a minimum of 85 DB 10' from alarm. They may not have an off/on switch and can only be manually deactivated for a period of 15 seconds. The alarm must be located a minimum of 54" above finish floor.
  2. An approved, locking, pool safety cover.
  3. Self-closing, self-latching with latch a minimum of 54" A.F.F.
5. A maximum vertical height of 2" from the bottom of the barrier to finish grade. This distance may be increased to 4" if a non-permeable surface is installed below the barrier.
6. Alternative methods providing equal or greater protection may be considered by the Building Official.
7. See examples on attached.

**YOU MAY NOT PLASTER YOUR POOL OR FILL IT WITH WATER WITHOUT ALL POOL PROTECTION IN PLACE AND OPERABLE.**

*\* Older pools, (existing prior to 1989), may not have P-traps installed. If you are unable to pump the pool discharge into the sewer stem through an existing plumbing fixture, water may be discharged to the nearest storm drain inlet under the following conditions:*

1. *The chlorine does not exceed .1 mg/liter, (1 part per million).*
2. *The pH is neutral. (6.5-8.5)*
3. *The water is free of an unusual coloration or solids.*
5. *There is no discharge of filter media or acid cleaning wastes.*