



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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# **SPECIFICATIONS FOR PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS, HOT TUBS, AND SIMILAR INSTALLATIONS (ABOVE GROUND PERMANENT AND STORABLE, AND IN-GROUND POOLS)**

If you have questions, please contact a Customer Service Representative at 763-531-1000

*The information in this pamphlet is not meant to cover all guidelines and requirements of city code. You should contact the city about required permits and specifications before beginning any project.*

**Crystal's zoning and safety codes regulate private residential pools to protect children and adults. Property owners are responsible for securing pools against unauthorized, unsupervised, and unintentional use.**

### **WHAT IS A POOL?**

A pool is any structure containing a body of water and having the capacity to contain a water depth of more than 24 inches at any point. Pools include swimming pools, hot tubs, spas, decorative pools and similar installations, whether above ground permanent and storable, or in-ground.

### **SAFETY AND ZONING CODE REQUIREMENTS**

Pools must be completely surrounded by a fence or an approved barrier at least 48 inches high. Clear opening at the bottom of fences and gates will be less than 4 inches. Gates will be self-closing and self-latching with the release mechanism located at the top of the pool side of the gate and inaccessible to children. Gates will positively close and latch when released from an open position of 6 inches from the gatepost.

The percentage of the rear yard that may be covered by buildings and structures is limited, depending on the size of the rear yard. Please see the handout, *Rear Yard Coverage Limitations for Single-Family and Two-Family Dwellings*, for more information.

### **REQUIRED PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS**

Installation of all pools must meet the zoning and safety codes adopted by the City of Crystal. Pool structures exceeding 120 square feet must have a building permit application submitted for review and approval. **IF REQUIRED, A BUILDING PERMIT MUST BE ISSUED BEFORE THE POOL IS INSTALLED.** The permit applicant will schedule all required inspections of the pool and related equipment. **THE POOL MUST BE INSPECTED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY BEFORE THE POOL IS FILLED WITH WATER.**

## **ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS FOR POOLS**

Do not use extension cords for pool equipment. A Minnesota licensed electrical contractor is required to install the electrical power for the pool equipment. Pool electrical wiring and equipment will comply with the National Electrical Code (NEC) as incorporated by the Minnesota Building Code, MN Rules Chapter 1315. A separate application for requesting electrical inspections is required as applicable.

The NEC states that pools will not be located under electrical overhead wiring; nor shall such wiring be installed above the pool within 10 feet horizontally of the inside of the pool walls as specified in the electrical code. Underground wiring shall not be permitted under the pool or within 5 feet horizontally from the inside wall of the pool unless this wiring is necessary to supply pool equipment permitted by the electrical code. Consult with a licensed electrical contractor for the correct location of the pool based on the electrical code.

## **REQUIRED INFORMATION WHEN APPLYING FOR A BUILDING PERMIT:**

- \* City of Crystal building permit application
- \* Two copies of a Certificate of Survey or two copies of a site plan drawn to scale, indicating:
  - ✓ Property lines and dimensions
  - ✓ Location and dimensions of all existing structures, including all buildings, sheds, garages, porches, decks, patios, utility poles, fences, sidewalks and driveways
  - ✓ Location and dimensions of proposed structures, pools and fences
  - ✓ Distances from existing and proposed structures to property lines
- \* Two copies of construction plans and details, drawn to scale, showing the design of proposed structure(s) and including:
  - ✓ depth of pool
  - ✓ height and thickness of sidewalls
  - ✓ means of access (removable ladder, ramp, or stairs)
  - ✓ manufacturer's installation manual on the proposed pool and related equipment

## **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

### **Pool Location**

- \* Pools and equipment will maintain the required setbacks from property lines
- \* Pools will not be permitted in required front yards
- \* The pool setback from side property lines bordering a street is 10 feet.
- \* When located in the rear yard, pools must be set back at least 3 feet from the rear or side property line.
- \* If overhead electrical lines are present along the rear property line, the setback is 10 feet horizontally from the overhead electrical lines.
- \* Underground wiring shall not be permitted under the pool or within 5 feet horizontally from the pool.
- \* Pools and equipment may not be located within easements.
- \* Pools and other structures will not exceed the coverage limitations for rear yards.

## **WATER QUALITY**

Pools shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and in good repair. Clean and clear water is essential for safe pool, spa and hot tub use. If you cannot see the bottom of the pool at its deepest point, the pool should not be used and you should contact your pool professional. Pools that are not properly maintained are in violation of Crystal's Public Health and Property Maintenance codes.