



# Swimming Pools, Spas & Hot Tubs



Answers to questions regarding specifications for private swimming pools and other similar installations, including above-ground, permanent and storable; and in-ground pools.

## 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.

## Zoning and safety codes

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.



## Pool Fence Safety and Code Requirements

- A fence that cannot be climbed, must be at least 48-inches high and must surround any outdoor pool that is more than 24-inches deep, including any spa, hot tub, etc.
- Constructed of 11-gauge woven wire mesh, wood or other durable material.
- Space under the fence shall not be more than 4-inches. Dwelling and other accessory buildings can be part of the pool enclosure.
- Gates are to open outward away from the pool to make it less likely a child will enter the area unsupervised.
- Gates shall have tensioned hinges, be self-closing and self-latching. The spring load hinges should close the gate from wide open to just barely open. The latch release mechanism is to be 48 inches or higher from the outside grade to keep small children from reaching up and releasing the gate.
- Above ground pools with a side wall 4 ft. or higher need no fence, but access to the pool must be a 4-ft.-high gate that is self-closing and self-latching. Decks or other construction may be used to achieve the 4-foot-height barrier.



EXAMPLE 1

### FENCED YARD WITH POOL OR SPA

EXAMPLE 2



GATE: 48" SELF CLOSING/SELF LATCHING

## Exceptions for pool/hot tub fence and gate requirements:

- Hot tubs with a lockable safety cover that complies with ASTM F 1346.
- Swimming pools with a powered cover that complies with ASTM F 1346.

## Pool Requirements: Location

- Pools and equipment will maintain the required setbacks from property lines.
- Pools will not be permitted in front yards.
- Pool setback from side property lines bordering a street is 10 ft.
- When located in the rear yard, pools must be set back at least 5 ft. from the rear or side property line.
- If overhead electrical lines are present along the rear property line, the setback is 10 ft. horizontally from the overhead electrical lines.
- Underground wiring shall not be permitted under the pool or within 5 ft. 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.

## Pool Requirements Continued

## Electrical inspections

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 ft. 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 ft. 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.

## 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.

## Heaters

All heaters shall be equipped with a readily accessible on/off switch mounted outside of the heater to allow shutting off the heater without adjusting the thermostat setting. Gas-fired heaters shall not be equipped with constant burning pilot lights.

## Time switches

Time switches or another control method that can automatically turn the heaters and pumps off and on according to a preset schedule shall be installed. Heaters, pumps and motors that have built-in timers shall be deemed in compliance with this requirement.

### Exceptions:

- Where public health standards require 24-hour pump operation.
- Where pumps are required to operate solar-and waste-heat recovery pool heating systems.

## Covers

Heated pools and in-ground permanently-installed spas shall be provided with a vapor-retardant cover.

**Exception:**

- Pools deriving more than 70% of the energy for heating from site-recovered energy, such as a heat pump or solar energy source computed over an operating season.

## Photovoltaic modules and systems

Installation of photovoltaic models and systems shall meet the requirements of Minnesota Rules, Chapter 1315.

## Required Permits and Inspections

Installation of all pools must meet the zoning and safety codes adopted by the City of Crystal. Pool structures exceeding 200 sq. ft. 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.**

[illegible]

## Applying for a building permit

You need the following when applying for a City of Crystal 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 structures, including 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 equipment.

# SAMPLE SITE PLAN

