

Swimming Pools

Requirements for Pools, Pool Fencing and Drainage

Overview: Swimming pools are regulated by Zoning Bylaw No. 4500 and Building Bylaw No. 7224. Zoning Bylaw 4500 defines a swimming pool as:

“any structure or construction, intended primarily for recreation that is, or is capable of being, filled with water to a depth of 0.6m or more. For the purpose of this definition, a hot tub shall not be considered a swimming pool”.

In order to construct or install a swimming pool, a Building Permit is required, including a site plan indicating pool location, fence details, and connection to the City sewer service.

Zoning Bylaw Requirements

Siting

In accordance with Zoning Bylaw 4500, residential swimming pools are not to be constructed within any required front yard setback or located within 1.5 metres (4.92 feet) of any other lot line.

Building Bylaw Requirements

Fencing

Swimming pools are also required to be enclosed in a structure or surrounded by a fence, as specified in Building Bylaw 7224. Subsection 23.2 of the Building Bylaw regulates fences as follows:

- “23.2.1 Fences shall be constructed around the perimeter of swimming pools and shall not be less than 1.5 metres (4.92 feet) high. The base of every fence shall be not more than 100 millimetres (4 inches) above ground or adjacent grade.
- 23.2.2 No horizontal or angled framing member shall be located on the outside of the fence between 150 millimetres (6 inches) and 900 millimetres (36 inches) above ground level or adjacent finished grade. Fences composed of vertical members shall have no openings of a size which will permit the passage of a spherical object having a diameter of 100 millimetres (4 inches). Fences composed of angle members shall have no openings between adjacent members greater than 13 millimetres (1/2 inch).
- 23.2.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section, standard chain link wire mesh may be acceptable provided that such fence is a minimum of 1.5 metres (4.921 feet) in height.
- 23.2.4 Access through required fences shall be by means of self-closing gates so designated as to cause the gates to become secured with self-latching devices located on the swimming pool side of the fence and at a height of at least 1 metre (3.281 feet) above grade at the outside of the fence, or on the outside of the fence at 1.5 metres (4.921 feet) above grade.”

Drainage

It must be possible for the water from the pool to be drained to the City sanitary sewer.