



**City of El Mirage  
Community Development Department  
Building Safety**

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## **POOL BARRIER REQUIREMENTS- NEW AND/OR EXISTING**

If you are the owner of a new pool, inspections will be conducted throughout the construction process. At the Pre-Plaster Inspection, the following conditions must be in place before the approval to plaster and fill the pool will be granted.

If you are a current pool owner, the State of Arizona requires primary barriers between your pool and the public. If there are children under six years of age in the household, secondary barriers must also be in place between the house and the pool.

### Primary Barrier requirements:

1. At minimum 5 foot wall, fence or barrier which will be measured from the exterior side of the yard. The barrier shall have no openings through which a spherical object of 4 inches in diameter can pass. There shall not be any horizontal members on the exterior side which would provide a foothold for climbing.
2. Gates – Must swing outward from the pool and must be self-closing and self-latching.
3. Latch – Self-closing and self-latching and located a minimum of 54 inches above the underlying ground and is located on the pool side of the gate.

### Secondary Barrier Requirements:

The following secondary barrier options will be accepted:

- Secondary fence meeting the above requirements isolating the pool area. This fence must be at least 24" away from the water edge.

### **OR**

- Doors –All doors with direct access to the pool must be self closing/ self-latching with a handle 54" from the floor.
  - Windows – From sleeping rooms with access to the pool area shall be equipped with a latching device not less than 54 inches above the floor. All other open-able windows with access to the pool shall be equipped with a screwed in place mesh screen, or keyed lock that prevents the window from opening more than 4 inches, or a latching device not less than 54 inches above the floor.
  - Pet Doors – No pet doors with access to the pool area will be allowed.
1. Above Ground Pools – Non-climbable exterior sides with a minimum height of 4 feet will have the following: Access ladder/ steps shall be removable with out tools. Secured in an inaccessible position, with a latching device not less that 54 inches above the floor.
  2. Fences – The fence height around the pool in the rear yard must be 54 inches. The fence will follow the same requirements for gates, latches and openings, with

the fence height of 54 inches. If a secondary fence is installed around the pool, then the above requirements for the dwelling and the gate are not required.

Maintenance on your pool year round is very important. This prevents the spread of animals, birds or mosquitoes (which can carry the West Nile Virus) from breeding. If placing a pool cover on the pool at the end of the swimming season, this cover must be securely fastened in place.

For further clarification of these guidelines, please consult ARS § 36-1681 - Pool Enclosures; requirements; exceptions; enforcement” taken from the Arizona State Legislature or contact the City of El Mirage Building Safety Department for a copy.

**AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING POOL BARRIERS (ADOPTING STATE STATUTE BY REFERENCE)**

**Section 14-6-4**

**J. Swimming Pools Private or Semi-Private**

All private or semi-private swimming pools shall meet the following standards:

1. The pool and all structures housing appurtenances thereto shall be not less than five (5) feet from the nearest property line except, however, that such pool or structure shall not be located between the front property line and the front building setback line.
2. Pool barriers shall be installed in accordance with state statutes. Any wall or fence must be set back from the edge of the swimming pool a minimum of five (5) feet.
3. The pool or mechanical equipment shall be located so as to minimize the noise and lessen the nuisance to nearby occupants of apartments or houses.
4. All swimming pool plans and safety devices proposed to be built or erected in conjunction with swimming pools shall be first presented to the Zoning Administrator for approval.



**WATCH YOUR KIDS AROUND WATER !  
IT ONLY TAKES A SECOND !**