

Attention

Swimming Pool Owners:

The City of Lincoln requires the following for family swimming pools having a depth of 18 inches or more:

- Pool must be completely surrounded by a fence or wall not less than 4 feet high with no openings, holes or gaps larger than 4 inches except for doors and gates. A house or accessory building may be included as part of your enclosure.
- All gates or doors must be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device.

Persons within the city, either as owner, purchaser, or tenant, who have a family swimming pool with a depth of 18 inches or more and fail to provide and maintain a proper fence or wall are subject to penalties.

Contact the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department for further information, 441-8000.

Lincoln City Municipal Code

8.36.020 Every family swimming pool having a depth of eighteen inches or more shall be completely surrounded by a fence or wall not less than four feet in height, which shall be so constructed as not to have openings, holes, or gaps larger than four inches in any dimension except for doors and gates; and if a picket fence is erected or maintained, the horizontal dimension shall not exceed four inches. A dwelling house or accessory building may be used as part of such enclosure. If the pool is constructed wholly or partially above ground level, that part of the pool wall which is out of the ground may be included as part of the fencing height requirement; provided that the ground is level or slopes away from the pool for at least three feet from the pool wall.

All gates or doors opening through such enclosure shall be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device for keeping the door securely closed at all times when not in actual use, except that the door of any dwelling which forms a part of the enclosure need not be so equipped.

On above-ground pools where the pool wall makes up the pool enclosure, the entrance into the pool must either be enclosed in a fence with gate, both of which meet the requirements previously stated, or the entrance to the pool must be by use of a limited access ladder which has provisions for making entry to the pool inaccessible when the pool is not in use.

It shall be unlawful for any person in possession of land within the city, either as owner, purchaser, lessee, or tenant, upon which is situated a family swimming pool having a minimum depth of 18 inches to fail to provide and maintain such fence or wall as herein provided. If a limited access ladder is used, it shall be unlawful for said person to allow the ladder to be left in a useable position when the pool is not in use. Any such family swimming pool in existence on the date this chapter becomes effective shall, within thirty days from such effective date, enclose such pool with a fence or wall as herein provided. (Ord. 15564 §2; May 14, 1990: P.C. §8.66.020: Ord. 14264 §1; November 18, 1985: prior Ord. 7243 §2: August 1, 1960).

Swimming Pool Safety

Prevent Drownings in Family Pools

Each year, 300 toddlers die in residential swimming pool drownings.



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Guidelines for Preventing Drowning Injuries:

The key to preventing drowning injuries is to have layers of protection. This includes placing barriers around the pool and between the home and pool to prevent access, using pool alarms, closely supervising your child and being prepared in case of an emergency.

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and Safe Kids Lincoln-Lancaster County offer these guidelines to prevent drowning:

- Never leave a child unsupervised in or near the pool, even for a minute.
- Any swimming pool, regardless of depth, which is not emptied after each use should be completely enclosed by installing a 4 foot high, four-sided fence with self-closing and self-latching gates.
- Where an above-ground pool has a deck which attaches to the house, pool access should be restricted by a secondary barrier. Secondary barriers include approved fences, alarms, and pool covers.
- Never prop open gates.
- Never leave toys in and around the pool.
- Never completely rely on a personal flotation device (PFD) or swimming lessons to protect a child. Do not let your child use an air-filled “swimming aid” as a safety device.
- Learn CPR. Keep rescue equipment (such as a shepherd’s hook or life preserver) and a telephone with emergency numbers at poolside.
- Never dive into an above ground pool, and be sure of the water depth in any pool.
- After the children finish swimming, secure the pool (gates closed and locked and pool covered) so they can’t get back into it.
- Clean the edge and inside of the pool regularly to prevent slips.
- Hot tubs should be equipped with an anti-entrapment drain cover, cut-off switch or double drain.
- Warn your children about the dangers of drain entrapment, and teach them to stay away from the drain.

Drowning Facts

- 166 Lancaster County children were treated in emergency rooms for near-drowning injuries from 2000 - 2002.
- 75% of children involved in swimming pool submersion or drowning accidents were between 1 and 3 years old
- More than half of residential swimming pool drownings occur in the child’s home pool, and one-third occur at the homes of friends, neighbors or relatives.

