

Town of Abington
500 Gliniewicz Way
Abington, MA 02351



Building Department
(781) 982-2105
fax: (781) 982-2121

REQUIREMENTS FOR POOL INSTALLATION

ANY PROPERTY OWNER OR POOL COMPANY INSTALLING A SWIMMING POOL SHALL OBTAIN THE FOLLOWING PERMITS AND APPROVALS, AND SHALL SUPPLY THE DATA REQUESTED ACCORDING TO THE MASS. STATE BUILDING CODE, THE ZONING BY-LAWS, AND THE ABINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION*.

1)* State law requires that any property owner planning to install either an above-ground or in-ground pool, must go before the Conservation Commission if they are within 100 feet of wetland. Forms for "Determination of Applicability" from the Conservation Commission are available from the Building Department.

All In-Ground Pools are subject to Conservation approval.

2) When applying for a Building permit, a plot plan must be submitted outlining the following information: **All pools have to be 10 feet from any lot line and all existing buildings: 35 feet from the front property line.**

3) Fence requirements for pools are as follows:

- a) Above-ground pool 2' and 3' deep: SHALL BE FENCED WITH 4' FENCE.
- b) Above-ground pool 4' deep or more: SHALL HAVE A LADDER THAT LOCKS UP OR THAT IS REMOVABLE ENCLOSED WITH THE POOL ENTRY LADDER SYSTEM. (AS REQUIRED BY MASS. STATE BUILDING CODE.)
- c) In-ground pool: SHALL BE FENCED WITH 4' FENCE. **-FENCE PERMIT MUST BE FILED AT SAME TIME AS BUILDING PERMIT. STRUCTURAL DRAWING REQUIRED.**

4) **WIRING PERMITS ARE REQUIRED** for installing filter systems and for grounding. Applications are to be submitted to the Wiring Inspector when the Building Permit is applied for. **NOTE: See Wiring Inspector regarding all pools (new code regulations.)**

5) **FEES:**

Building:	\$10 per thousand of estimated cost
Wiring:	\$35 for Above-ground pools
	\$50 for In-ground pools

780 CMR 120.M

SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS

780 CMR 120.M101 GENERAL

120.M101.1 General. The provisions of 780 CMR 120.M shall control the design and construction of swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

Note 1: Public and semi-public outdoor in-ground swimming pool enclosures shall conform to the requirements of M.G.L. c. 140, § 206.

Note 2: Also see 521 CMR 19.00: Recreational Facilities.

Note 3: Also see 105 CMR 430.000 and 435.000 as such regulates swimming pool requirements.

Note 4: Installation of electrical wiring and electrical devices shall be in accordance with 527 CMR 12.00: Massachusetts Electrical Code.

Note 5: Installation of gas-fired pool heaters shall be in accordance with 248 CMR (the Massachusetts Fuel Gas and Plumbing Code).

780 CMR 120.M102 DEFINITIONS

120.M102.1 General. For the purposes of 780 CMR 120.M, the terms used shall be defined as follows and as set forth in 780 CMR 52.00.

ABOVE-GROUND/ON-GROUND POOL. See "Swimming Pool."

BARRIER. A fence, wall, building wall or combination thereof which completely surrounds the swimming pool and obstructs access to the swimming pool.

HOT TUB. See "Swimming Pool."

IN-GROUND POOL. See "Swimming Pool."

RESIDENTIAL. That which is situated on the premises of a detached one- or two-family dwelling or a one-family town-house not more than three stories in height.

SPA, NONPORTABLE. See "Swimming Pool."

SPA, PORTABLE. A nonpermanent structure intended for recreational bathing, in which all controls, water-heating and water-circulating equipment are an integral part of the product.

SWIMMING POOL. Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches (610 mm) deep. This includes in-ground, aboveground and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas.

SWIMMING POOL, INDOOR. A swimming pool which is totally contained within a structure and surrounded on all four sides by walls of said structure.

SWIMMING POOL, OUTDOOR. Any swimming pool which is not an indoor pool.

780 CMR 120.M103 SWIMMING POOLS

120.M103.1 In-ground Pools. In-ground pools shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-5 as listed in 780 CMR 120.M107.

120.M103.2 Above-ground and On-ground Pools. Above-ground and on-ground pools shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-4 as listed in 780 CMR 120.M107.

780 CMR 120.M104 SPAS AND HOT TUBS

120.M104.1 Permanently Installed Spas and Hot Tubs. Permanently installed spas and hot tubs shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-3 as listed in 780 CMR 120.M107.

120.M104.2 Portable Spas and Hot Tubs. Portable spas and hot tubs shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-6 as listed in 780 CMR 120.M107.

780 CMR 120.M105 BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

120.M105.1 Application. The provisions of 780 CMR 120.M shall control the design of barriers for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. These design controls are intended to provide protection against potential drowning and near-drowning by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

120.M105.2 Outdoor Swimming Pool. An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground, aboveground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa shall be provided with a barrier which shall comply with the following:

1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be two inches (51 mm) measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an aboveground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure, or mounted on top of the pool structure. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be four inches (102 mm).

780 CMR: STATE BOARD OF BUILDING REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS
THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE BUILDING CODE

2. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a four-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.
3. Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.
4. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches (1143 mm), the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1.75 inches (44 mm) in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75 inches (44 mm) in width.
5. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches (1143 mm) or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed four inches (102 mm). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75 inches (44 mm) in width.
6. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2.25-inch (57 mm) square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to not more than 1.75 inches (44 mm).
7. Where the barrier is composed of dimensional members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the dimensional members shall not be more than 1.75 inches (44 mm).
8. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of 780 CMR 120.M105.2, Items 1 through 7, and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism and openings shall comply with the following:
 - 8.1. The release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least three inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate, and
 - 8.2. The gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism.
9. Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier one of the following conditions shall be met:
 - 9.1. The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F1346; or
 - 9.2. All doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and its screen, if present, are

opened. The alarm shall sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds immediately after the door is opened and be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal house-hold activities. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm system shall be equipped with a manual means, such as touchpad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch(es) shall be located at least 54 inches (1372 mm) above the threshold of the door; or

9.3. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the governing body, shall be acceptable so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by 780 CMR 120.M105.2., Item 9.1 or 9.2.

10. Where an aboveground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps, then:

10.1. The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access, or

10.2. The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of 780 CMR 120.M105.2., Items 1 through 9. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the pass 120.Me of a four-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.

Note that for private, above ground pools:

1. *The pool wall of an outdoor, above-ground pool (with pool walls extending at least 48 inches above grade at all points along the pool), substitutes for a fence or other barrier around the pool with the exception of the ladder area of the pool.*

2. *A retractable, lockable ladder, that cannot be removed (without tools or special knowledge available to a small child), which retracts, by hinge or sliding mechanism, to 48 inches or more above the finished grade level and has provision for securing in the retracted mode with a locking device, shall be considered an acceptable alternative to the applicable required enclosure (fence or other gate barrier) of the 780 CMR 421 (6th Edition Building Code), or 780 CMR 120.M (7th Edition Building Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings).*

3. *The retractable ladder locking/release device must be located at least 54 inches above the finished grade level in immediate vicinity of the retractable ladder or such locking/release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the ladder (forcing*

“reach around”) and located at least three inches below the top of the ladder and the ladder shall not have an opening greater than ½ inch within 18 inches of the locking/release mechanism.

Exception: Public and semi-public outdoor in-ground swimming pool enclosures shall conform to the requirements of M.G.L. c. 140, § 206.

120.M105.3 Indoor Swimming Pool. All walls surrounding an indoor swimming pool shall comply with 780 CMR 120.M105.2, Item 9.

120.M105.4 Prohibited Locations. Barriers shall be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers.

120.M105.5 Barrier Exceptions. Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346, as listed in 780 CMR 120.M107, shall be exempt from the provisions of 780 CMR 120.M.

780 CMR 120.M106 ENTRAPMENT PROTECTION FOR SWIMMING POOL AND SPA SUCTION OUTLETS

120.M106.1 General. Suction outlets shall be designed to produce circulation throughout the pool or spa. Single outlet systems, such as automatic vacuum cleaner systems, or other such multiple suction outlets whether isolated by valves or otherwise shall be protected against user entrapment.

Note: Also refer to 105 CMR 430.000 and 435.000.

120.M106.2 Suction Fittings. All Pool and Spa suction outlets shall be provided with a cover that conforms with ANSI/ASME A112.19.8M, or a 12I 12I drain grate or larger, or an approved channel drain system.

Exception: Surface skimmers

120.M106.3 Atmospheric Vacuum Relief System Required. All pool and spa single or multiple outlet circulation systems shall be equipped with atmospheric vacuum relief should grate covers located therein become missing or broken. Such vacuum relief systems shall include at least one approved or engineered method of the type specified herein, as follows:

1. Safety vacuum release system conforming to ASME A112.19.17, or
2. An approved gravity drainage system.

120.M106.4 Dual Drain Separation. Single or multiple pump circulation systems shall be provided with a minimum of two suction outlets of the approved type. A minimum horizontal or vertical distance of three feet shall separate such outlets. These suction outlets shall be piped so that water is drawn through them simultaneously through a vacuum relief-protected line to the pump or pumps.

120.M106.5 Pool Cleaner Fittings. Where provided, vacuum or pressure cleaner fitting(s) shall be located in an accessible position(s) at least six inches and not greater than twelve inches below the minimum operational water level or as an attachment to the skimmer(s).

780 CMR 120.M107 ABBREVIATIONS

120.M107.1 General.

ANSI—American National Standards Institute
11 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036
ASTM—American Society for Testing and Materials
1916 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
NSPI—National Spa and Pool Institute
2111 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA
22314

780 CMR 120.M108 STANDARDS

120.M108.1 General.

ANSI/NSPI

ANSI/NSPI-3-99 Standard for Permanently Installed Residential Spas AG104.1

ANSI/NSPI-4-99 Standard for Above-ground/ On-ground Residential Swimming Pools AG103.2

ANSI/NSPI-5-99 Standard for Residential In-ground Swimming Pools AG103.1

ANSI/NSPI-6-99 Standard for Residential Portable Spas AG104.2

ANSI/ASME A112.19.8M-1987 Suction Fittings for Use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs and Whirlpool Bathing Appliances AG106.2

ASTM

ASTM F 1346-91 (1996) Performance Specification for Safety Covers and Labeling Requirements for All Covers for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs AG105.2, AG105.5

ASME

ASME A112.19.17 Manufacturers Safety Vacuum Release Systems (SVRS) for Residential and Commercial Swimming Pool, Spa, Hot Tub and Wading Pool AG106.3

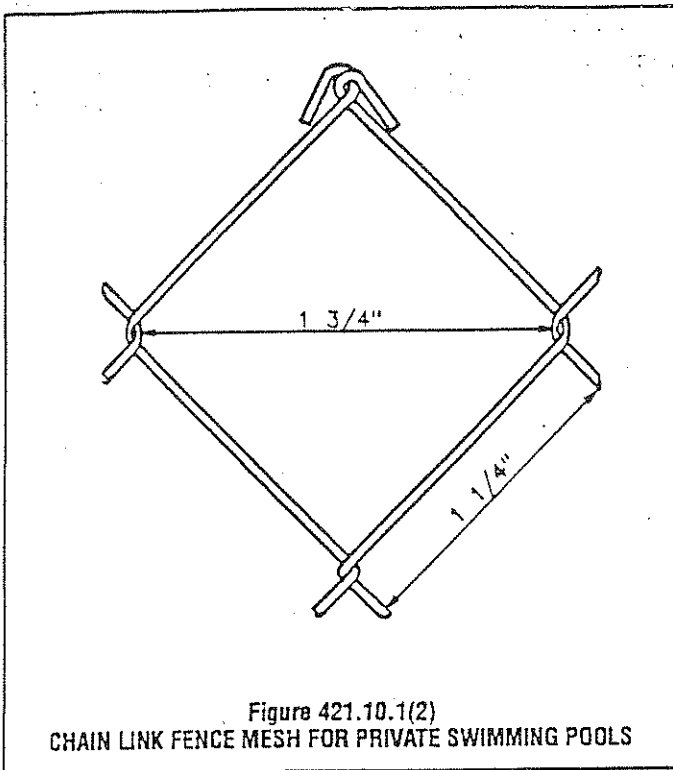


Figure 421.10.1(2)
CHAIN LINK FENCE MESH FOR PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS

7. A slightly bigger opening is permitted for barriers composed of diagonal members other than chain link fences, on the basis that such barriers would be more difficult to gain a foothold and handhold on than a chain link fence. The 1 3/4-inch dimension is consistent with Item Nos. 4, 5 and 6.
8. A gate represents the same potential hazard relative to climbing as does the other portions of the barrier and, therefore, must be constructed in accordance with Item Nos. 1 through 7. Additionally, since the gate also represents a potential breach of the barrier due to the ability to open the gate, the code provides prescriptive details for the construction and operation of the gate. A self-closing pedestrian gate is required to open away from the pool because if the latch fails to operate, a child pushing on the gate will not gain immediate access to the pool. Pushing on the gate may also engage the latch. Large, nonpedestrian gates are not required to be self-closing due to the prohibitive cost coupled with the fact that these gates are typically operated by persons other than small children. The 54-inch latch height requirement is intended to limit the potential for small children to reach and activate the latch. If located less than 54 inches, the code's prescriptive location requirements are intended to preclude the latch from being activated by small children who are not on the pool side of the gate.
9. Many residential settings with backyard pools have a fence bounding the property and terminating at the dwelling. This precludes access to the pool by unsupervised children around the perimeter of the fence but there is still a potential for children to access the pool from within the dwelling. The provisions of this section are intended to restrict such access by small children.

Almost half the children involved in drowning or near-drowning accidents gained access to the pool from the dwelling through a hinged or sliding door. An audible alarm on the doors leading to the pool area is intended to provide a warning to a supervising adult that the pool area has been entered. Alternatively, in lieu of the door alarms, an approved power safety cover of the pool is permitted.

10. The code permits the wall of the pool itself to serve as the barrier to the pool, provided that the wall extends at least 48 inches above the finished ground level around the perimeter of the pool. However, a fixed or removable ladder represents a breach in the barrier and, therefore, this ladder must also be surrounded by the required barrier to limit access to the ladder.

A removable ladder does not constitute an acceptable alternative to enclosure requirements since its effectiveness as a barrier is dependent on its removal.

421.10.2 Indoor private swimming pool: All walls surrounding an indoor private swimming pool shall comply with Section 421.10.1, item 9.

■ An indoor pool represents the same hazards as outdoor pools. The hazard is compounded because the pool is easily accessible to small children within the dwelling. For this reason, either the doors to the pool must have alarms or an approved power safety cover is required.

421.10.3 Prohibited locations: Barriers shall be located so as to preclude placement of chairs, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers.

■ This section is especially important when the wall of the pool itself is used as the barrier (see Item No. 10 of Section 421.10.1). Pumps and other equipment located adjacent to the pool wall (barrier) present a hazard in that the pump may provide a means by which small children could climb and gain access to the pool over the pool wall.

421.10.4 Exemptions: The following shall be exempt from the provisions of this section:
1. Spas or hot tubs with an approved safety cover.
2. Fixtures which are drained after each use.

■ Safety covers, when approved, are viewed as an acceptable mechanism to limit the potential for small children to fall into a spa or hot tub. Therefore, it is essential that an "approved safety cover" be one which cannot be easily removed by a small child and will not collapse under the weight of small children. Although the corresponding definitions for "hot tub" and "nonportable spa" reference the definition for "private swimming pool," these types of fixtures present a reduced hazard when compared to private swimming pools. Accordingly, due to their limited size and use (recreational bathing), the safety cover (not required to be power) can be approved. A safety cover is not required when the fixture will be drained after each use. The second exemption acknowledges the reduced hazard when water is not present in the spa or hot tub.

421.11 Diving boards: Minimum water depths and distances for diving hoppers for pools based on board height above water.

20) The gate lock is to be kept locked whenever the pool is not in use or under adult supervision.

21) Now you can install your "A" frame ladder or ground to deck ladder

22) Check your gate, and all safety devices on a regular basis (weekly) to make sure that they are operating properly.

WARNING:

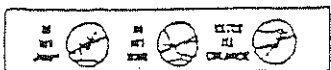
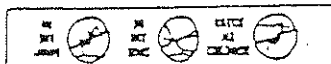
You must maintain a 4' high barrier around your pool to prevent children from getting unsupervised access to the pool. The 4' tall pool wall and ladder enclosure will provide this barrier. If your pool is backfilled, has struts (oval pools), or any structure close to it, it IS necessary to mount safety fence on

the pool, or put fence all the way around the pool, in order to maintain a 4' tall barrier to entry. Keep the pool area clean and clear of any toys, chairs, tables, or any climbable objects that would enable a child to get into the pool

IMPORTANT NOTICE! READ BEFORE INSTALLATION!

ATTENTION POOL OWNERS & INSTALLERS:

ENCLOSED:



2 Labels for liner placement
(1 additional label already affixed to top rail)



3 Signs:

- 1 for placement on outside wall next to entry to pool.
- 2 for equal placement so sign is visible from all possible entrances to pool. If more are required, write for additional signs.

These warnings are not to be removed under any circumstances! If they become discolored or fall off, please request replacements which will be sent at no charge.

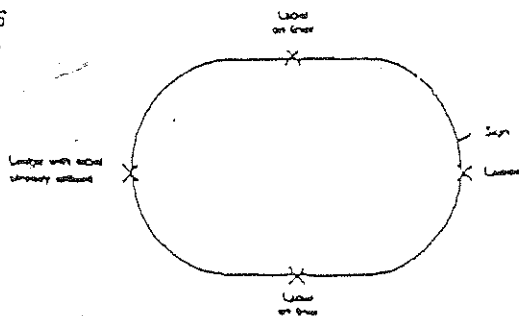
NOTICE TO POOL OWNERS & INSTALLERS:

-PRACTICE POOL SAFETY-

THESE LABELS AND YOUR COOPERATION MAY SAVE A LIFE!

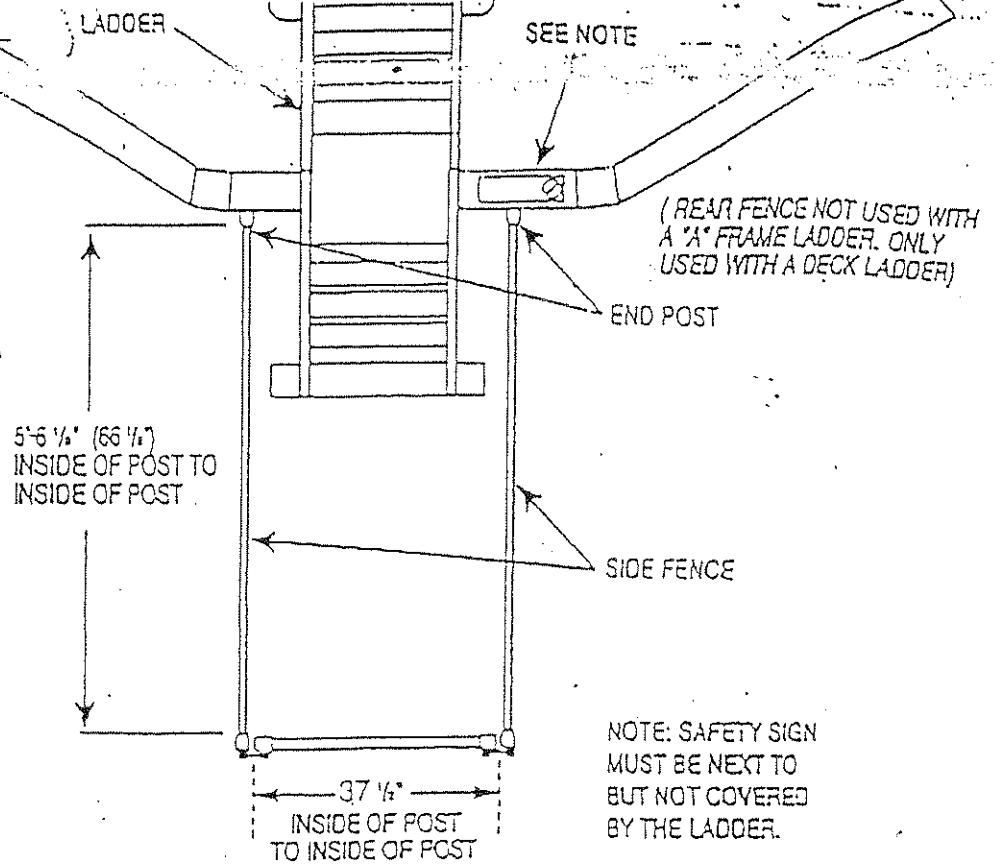
Also, failure to mount these Safety Labels as advised in above instructions may subject you to substantial personal liability in case of injury.

LABEL LOCATIONS FOR OVAL POOLS.



PUT OTHER 2 SIGNS SO THEY ARE VISIBLE FROM ALL POSSIBLE ENTRANCES

FIGURE 2



4) Please take some time now to see how this enclosure will look when finished as shown above in figure 1. On the following page, in figure 2 it is shown with a "A" frame ladder. Make sure that you have room to properly install this enclosure before you proceed. If you have questions please contact the dealer where you purchased this enclosure BEFORE you go any further.

!! WARNING!! YOU MUST INSTALL THIS ENCLOSURE PROPERLY FOR IT TO WORK EFFECTIVELY! FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS!

- 5) Level the ground so it is even with the bottom of the pool. The ground must be clear and level in the area.
- 6) Mark the ground where the four (4) posts will go. Figure #2 gives you the proper distances to place the posts. Again, check that you have the correct dimensions and enough clear and level area to properly install the enclosure. Dig four (4) holes that are 6" in diameter, and 20" deep. Double check your distances when you are done.
- 7) You are now ready to do some partial assembly of the enclosure. Look at the four (4) posts. Familiarize yourself with which ones will go up against the pool or deck, and which ones will be on either side of the gate. The two (2) posts where the gate will go must be positioned so that the gate will open **OUTWARD**, away from the ladder. The gate must open to the right. Place the post with the threaded holes for the hinges on the right side of the opening.
- 8) Attach the rear fence section, which is 48 1/2" tall x 36" long, to the two rear posts, only if this is a deck ladder that you will be enclosing.
- 9) Attach the side fence sections, which are 51" tall x 66" long, to the two rear posts, and the two front posts.
- 10) Place the partly assembled enclosure into the four(4) post holes you dug out in step #6. Make sure all dimensions are as in figure #2.
- 11) Attach the hinges to the post and gate with the pre-threaded holes

- 12) Now make sure that all the posts and fence are securely connected and the measurements on your enclosure match the specifications in figure #2. Where necessary use ropes and stakes to hold the posts in plumb position. Your ladder enclosure should be sitting in the four holes you dug, set up and ready for concrete.
- 13) Fill the four holes with concrete. Do not use concrete with calcium chloride. Each hole will use about 1/3rd cubic foot of concrete.
- 14) Re-measure all your posts and fence. Make sure it is all level, square, and plumb. Do this now, before the concrete starts to set.
- 15) Let the concrete set for 24 hours.
- 16) Mount the safety gravity latch.
- 17) Make sure that your gate can open and close easily. Make sure it is clear of any obstructions. Make sure the latch works properly, that it is closing securely.
- 18) Using a philips head screw driver, adjust the hinges so that the gate closes securely on its own. This is done by lightening the philips head screws on the ends of the hinges.
- 19) Fasten the Placard sign to the top edge of the gate using self lapping Tek screws. Repeat the process using the self lapping Tex screws to attach the side of the placard to the edge of the gate frame.

NOTE: SAFETY SIGN MUST BE NEXT TO BUT NOT COVERED BY THE LADDER.

Installation Instruction:

Parts List

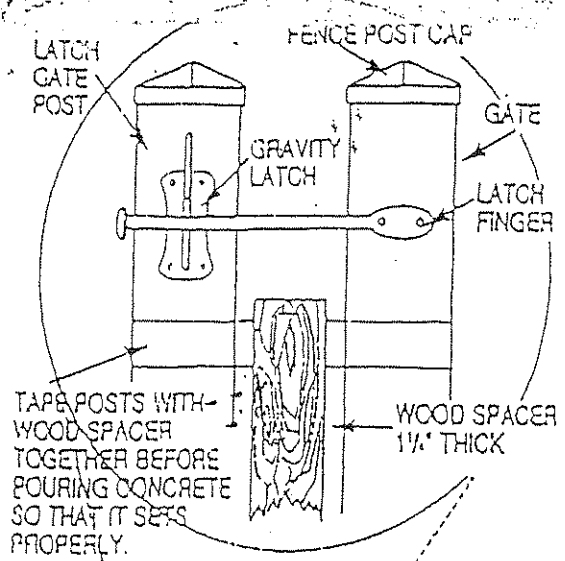


Figure 1A

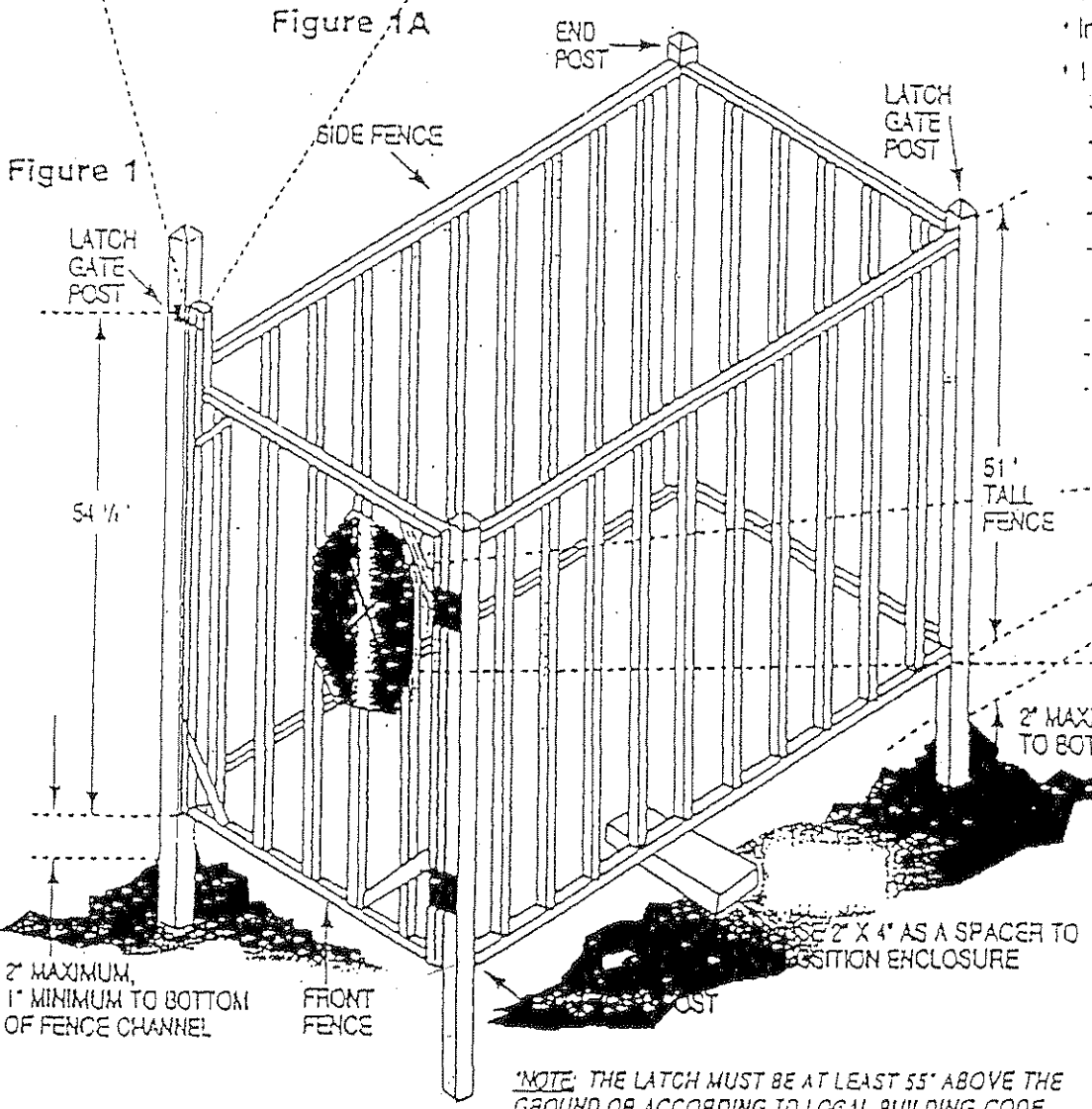
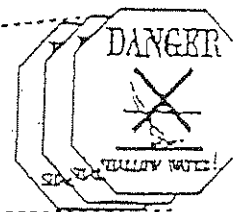


Figure 1

Following is a list of all the parts. Please open all of your cartons and make sure you have all of the parts listed. If you do not have all of the parts listed below, STOP! Contact the dealer where you purchased this enclosure, and advise them about what is missing. Without all of the parts needed to construct this enclosure, it cannot function properly and safely.

- Carton #1
 - 2 fence sections 66" long x 51" tall (sides)
 - 1 fence section 36" long x 48 1/2" tall (rear)
 - 1 gate section 35-1/2" long x 50 3/4" tall (front)
 - placard sign
- Carton #2
 - 1 post 1 1/2" square 79" long (front, where gate latch will attach)
 - 2 posts 1 1/2" square 70" long (rear corners, with extra slots)
 - 1 post 1 1/2" square 70" long (front, where gate hinge will attach)
 - Instructions
 - 1 bag hardware
 - 12 fence clips
 - 6 fence post caps
 - 2 resin hinges
 - 1 gravity latch
 - 1 gravity latch finger
 - 4 Tate Screws
 - 12 #10 x 1/2 philips head screws
 - 6 #8 philips head screws
 - 8 10-24 x 5/8" machine screws



2" MAXIMUM, 1" MINIMUM TO BOTTOM OF FENCE CHANNEL

51" TALL FENCE

2" MAXIMUM, 1" MINIMUM GROUND TO BOTTOM OF FENCE CHANNEL

USE 2" X 4" AS A SPACER TO POSITION ENCLOSURE

NOTE: THE LATCH MUST BE AT LEAST 55" ABOVE THE GROUND OR ACCORDING TO LOCAL BUILDING CODE.

2) READ ALL THE WAY THROUGH THESE DIRECTIONS AT LEAST ONCE BEFORE YOU COME BACK TO STEP #4 AND START INSTALLATION

3) Do not install (if already installed, remove) your "A" frame safety ladder or ground to deck ladder until you have completed installing your ladder enclosure

MAKESURE ALL POSTS ARE VERTICAL, AND ALL FENCE SECTIONS ARE SQUARE BEFORE AND AFTER POURING CONCRETE

MARY ITRALK

The splash no one heard

IT HAPPENED on Memorial Day, 2002. My daughter Samantha, was 31, and I was 57. We always open our pool on Memorial Day. Our neighbor, Rock, is usually around to help with the task. The kids of the two families are close in age and so charmed with one another as to behave almost like siblings. 90 percent best friends and on occasion, 10 percent bitter enemies. A back gate in the pool area connects the two yards. As the two dads worked to get the pool open, the moms kept an eye on the kids. They played on the swing set in Rock's backyard, asking when the pool would be ready. Is it ready now? Now? Ready yet? Now? The day was made a little more stressful because my husband, Bruce, had a flight to catch that evening. He was due to be out of town for the rest of the week. Rock's wife, Jen, knew Bruce would be gone and was busy preparing a meal for us for that evening — a welcome offering for a house with a new baby. I cut up some fresh strawberries and whipped some cream to return the favor. The lads were wrapping up the last of the chores of cleaning up the pool. Bruce had just passed through the kitchen on yet another trip down to the basement to fetch supplies. The two of them had run into a few snags along the way. The water filter had a plumbing that didn't work. The pump had to operate, cranky hardware. The pool water that revealed itself as deep green and murky, uninviting, to say the least. But the job was almost done. I wrapped up my simple dessert and headed out the back door to cross through the pool yard to my neighbor's house. Down the back steps and around a short stretch of fence through the gate to the pool, I say, just at the far end, face down in the awful water. I pretend eagle body slowly, slowly spinning. The

children at
the pool?

who is
watching

A ball was floating in the pool, too. There was no one else around.

I remember carefully putting down the dish of strawberries and cream. It was made of glass, and I didn't want it to break. I screamed for help. I had my new baby strapped to my chest, jumping into the water was not a choice. I ran to the end of the pool where she was floating. How long could it have taken for me to cross those 32 feet? Three, maybe four seconds? I can remember her hair, swirling so gently so beautifully, as she bobbed in the water. Sammy, I thought, you've drowned while I cut up the strawberries. I'm so sorry. I'm so, so sorry. I'm so sorry.

I came around the corner of the deep end and over the diving board. I strained out over the water. Rock was by then running up along the other side of the pool. I hugged a foot, then grabbed a shirt, and in that moment, I knew. Before I had even pulled her out of the pool, I knew by the clothing that it was not my Sammy. It was 18-month-old Fae, Rock, and Jen's youngest.

And then the thought I simply can't forgive myself for. I thanked the sweet Lord in Heaven that it was not my baby. Thank you, God, it's not Sammy. I turned Fae to face me. Her eyes were wide open. She began to howl. I handed her to her dad. I sat down on the diving board. I started to cry, too. Fae vomited pool water and cried for a good long time. It was clear that she would be fine. She had gotten the scare of her young life, as had all the adults. The siblings gathered around, questioning, worrying the details. My oldest, then 7, had burst into tears, at the sight of me, so upset, so unraveled.

As I have read about recent drownings, it all happened so quickly. We placed it together after the fact: All the adults thought someone else was watching, and Fae followed an errant ball into the pool yard, and then into the pool, undetected. No one had heard so much as a splash. We love our children so much. And we let this happen.

I am a spiritual person. I think I was nudged to deliver the dessert in time to save a life. Others may make of that what they will. In my mind, there were three or four seconds three years ago when I had lost a daughter. There was a terrible, selfish thought I cannot erase. I learned a lesson I will never forget. We were all spared a tragedy. We will be ever vigilant with pool safety.

Other families last weekend were not spared a tragedy. I'm so sorry. I'm so, so sorry. I'm so sorry.

Mary Itralk lives in Arlington.

Toddler's death in pool called 'tragic accident'

By **SHAMUS MCGILlicuddy**

The Patriot Ledger

An autopsy shows that the drowning of an 18-month-old Plymouth girl in her family's swimming pool was an accident, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy Cruz said.

The body of the girl was discovered around 5:20 a.m. Sunday by her mother, according to police and firefighters.

Police Capt. Michael Belmont said the girl, identified by news reports as Julie Parsons, woke up in the early morning and went into her parent's bedroom.

"They thought she went back to bed," Belmont said.

Instead the toddler wandered out of the house on Anawon Street and somehow climbed into her family's above-ground swimming pool.

The pool is enclosed by a fence. Belmont said police did not know how the girl got into the pool.

"I don't know if a gate was left open," he said.

Firefighters arrived within minutes of receiving a call from the girl's parents.

Fire Capt. Robert Crone said paramedics tried to revive her as they took her to Jordan Hospital in Plymouth. She was pronounced dead on her arrival.

Belmont called the drowning a tragic accident.

District Attorney Cruz said the death was "not looking suspicious at this point." He said his office was closing its case on the matter.

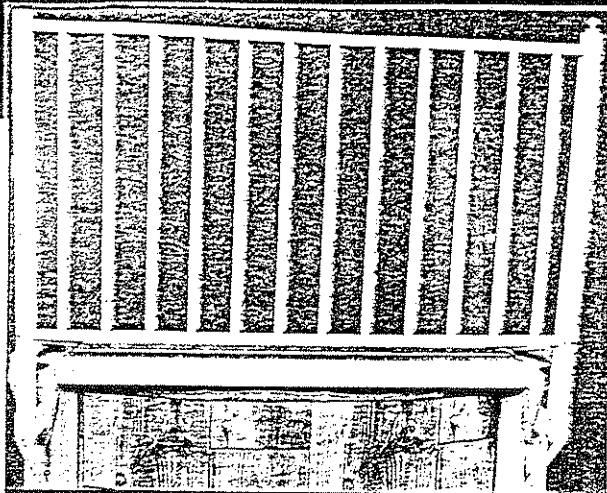
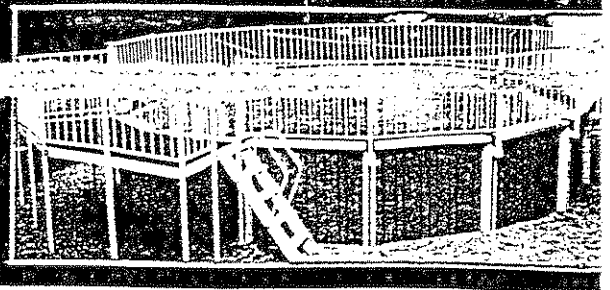
Attempts to reach the girl's parents, Harold and Melinda Parsons, were unsuccessful.

A woman standing in front of the family's home ordered a reporter to leave the neighborhood yesterday.

Shamus McGillicuddy may be reached at smcgillicuddy@ledger.com.

POOL FENCING ENCLOSURE

for Safety's sake!



The aluminum fence (barrier) is mounted on the pool structure. The vertical distance clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the fence structure is 4". The vertical distance between the top rail of the fence and the top rail of the pool is 36".

Fencing for above ground or on ground swimming pools!

- [-] Fence enclosure is a supplemental layer of protection for young children against the potential for drowning and near drowning in residential above ground or on ground swimming pools by limiting or delaying their access to swimming pools. This provides a means, or a combination of means, to exclude children from the swimming pool area.
- [-] Installed fences have a minimum height of 36" from the top rail of the pool, vertically to the top rail of the fence. Open air spacing between pickets have a maximum of 4" between all vertical pickets and support posts. A sphere greater than 4" will not pass through openings in the fence.
- [-] Fencing has a minimum 65% open area to allow visibility to the pool area.
- [-] This Universal fence enclosure conforms with ANSI/NSPI-8 1995 or latest revision model barrier code for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs, and with CPSC, SBCCI, CABO, NY State and ICBO building code requirements.

THRU THE WALL SKIMMERS



- ✓ EASY INSTALLATION INTO THE BODY OF A THRU WALL SKIMMER FOR ABOVE-GROUND OR ON-GROUND POOLS
- ✓ 50% TO 200% GREATER WATER HOLDING CAPACITY
- ✓ QUICK AND IMMEDIATE FULL DRAINAGE
- ✓ HOLDS A FULL WEEK'S SUPPLY OF CHEMICALS
- ✓ SUPERIOR CONTROL OF TABLET DISSOLUTION

UNIQUE NEW DESIGN
ENABLES USE WITH
EXISTING

SKIMMERS

FILTRATION SYSTEMS!

...AND FITS ALL INDUSTRY
STANDARD CONFIGURATIONS BY
HAYWARD, AMERICAN PRODUCTS,
OLYMPIC, AQUA LEADER
HERCULES AND STA-RITE.

BETTER OVER-ALL POOL WATER
MAINTENANCE IS ACHIEVED!

* All molded parts are chemically inert. Patent #5,254,588

For use with
100 ft Cartridge
SM-14RF100

For use with
50 ft Cartridge
SM-12RF50

For use with
25 ft Cartridge
SM-11RF25

Non Cartridge
SM-101RAL



Seavonmaster, Inc.

P.O. Box 7203, North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902
(732) 249-3001 Fax (732) 828-0609

Our manufacturing personnel observe quality assurance and quality certifications. All illustrated products meet or exceed the ANSI/NSPI-4 1999 or the latest revisions.

GET INTO THE SWIM!

with the most up-to-date, contemporary and state-of-the-art
above-ground/on-ground

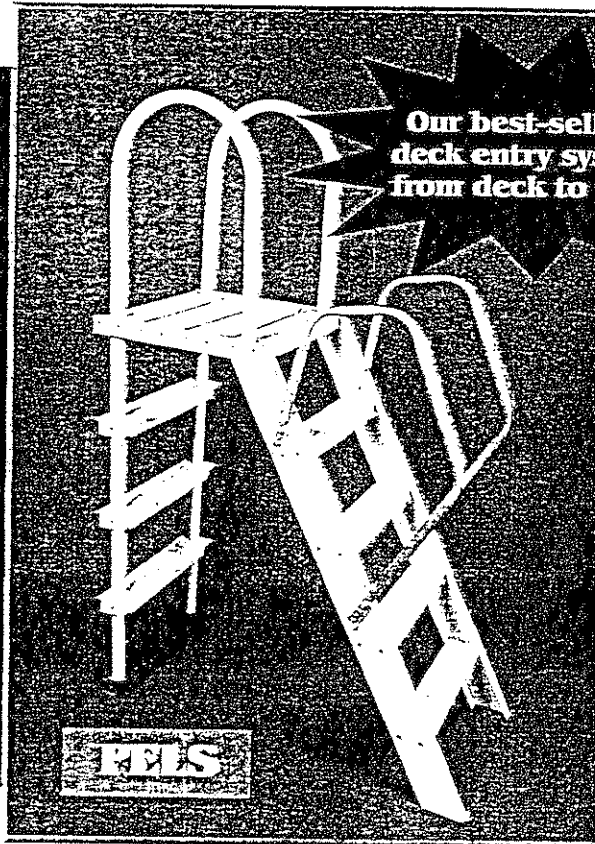
POOL LADDERS, ENCLOSURES AND FENCING

from **Seasonmaster, Inc.**



**Our
unique
designs
conform
with ADA
requirements!**

**We offer
dignified access
coupled with
convenience
and durability
to the
physically
challenged!**



**Our best-selling
deck entry system
from deck to pool**

**All
manufacturing
operations
are
performed
in-house
with the latest
state-of-the-art
injection
molding
and
powder
coating
equipment!**

Pool Entry Ladder System

Above ground pool entry system to enter pool

Selling Features:

- ☐ Advanced high polymer resin injection molded treads.
- ☐ UV inhibitors to resist sun damage.
- ☐ 25" overall width, safety signage embossed into treads.
- ☐ Top tread "yellow" conform with OSHA requirements.
- ☐ 20" clearance between 5" wide extruded aluminum siderails.
- ☐ Joined to our DIPLA in pool ladder with an injection molded transition platform consisting of 4" "yellow" injection molded treads, forming a full 23" x 23" platform, protected with two 30" high 1.500" OD aluminum painted white handrails.
- ☐ Additional affixed safety signage conforms with ANSI Z535.4.
- ☐ 12" between risers, all stainless steel screws.
- ☐ 2 - 1.250" OD anodized, extruded aluminum handrails.
- ☐ 5 treads up the staircase, all stainless steel screws.
- ☐ 5" overall depth, slip resistant surface on treads.

GET INTO THE SWIM!

MEMBER



with **Seasonmaster, Inc.**



TO MOLDED STAIRCASES

DL 58-23

STAIRCASE LADDER

ENJOY ALL THESE FEATURES WITHOUT THE FUSS!

DL 58-23/52 & DL 58-23 DES

Selling Features:

- Advanced high polymer resin injection molded treads.
- UV inhibitors to resist sun damage.
- 23" overall width, safety signage embossed into treads.
- 20" clearance between 5" wide extruded aluminum siderails.
- 5" overall depth, slip-resistant surface.
- 12" between risers, all stainless steel screws.
- 5" treads, 4 white, top tread "yellow" conform with OSHA requirements.
- 2 - 1.250" OD painted white, extruded aluminum ribbed handrails.
- Additional safety signage affixed, conform with ANSI Z535.4.

DECK TO GROUND

DL 58-23 DES

U.S. Patent 5,333,323



- 2 - 1.500" OD painted white, 30" high handrails above deck conform with ADAAG standard for physically challenged persons.
- 2 - advanced elastomer feet to protect against liner damage.

Patent # 5,333,328

LADDERS

DIPLA & DIPLA-XHI
DELUXE
IN POOL
ALUMINUM
LADDER



- 2 - 1.300" OD polyester powder coated extruded aluminum handrails.
- 18" clearance between 1.500" aluminum side rails.

DIPLA & DIPLA-XHI
DIPLS & DIPLS-XHI

Selling Features:

- Advanced high polymer resin injection molded treads.
- UV inhibitors to resist sun damage.
- 30" height of handrails (hand holds) above deck conforms with ADA standards for physically-challenged persons.
- 23" overall width, safety signage embossed into treads.
- 5" overall depth, slip-resistant surface.
- 12" between risers, all stainless steel screws.
- 4" treads, top tread "yellow" conform with OSHA requirements. Center treads "white", bottom tread "blue".
- Additional safety signage affixed, conforms with ANSI Z535.4.
- Accommodates 48" & 52" high wall pools.

DIPLS & DIPLS-XHI
DELUXE
IN POOL
LADDER
STAINLESS
STEEL



- 2 - 1.500" OD stainless steel, polished and brushed handrails.
- 18" clearance between 1.500" stainless steel hand rails.

NEW!

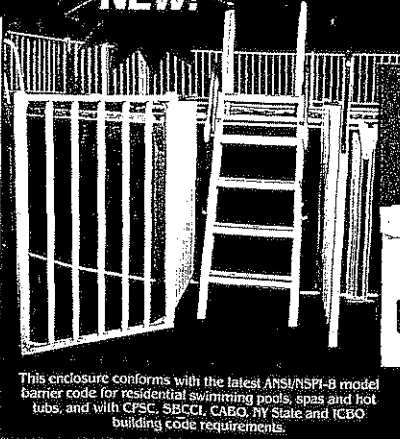
PEES POOL ENTRY ENCLOSURE SYSTEM

PEES

Selling Features:

- A lockable, self-closing and self-latching gate at ground level.
- The release mechanism is located at 59" above ground level.
- Magnetic pool latch gate, with no mechanical interference to overcome during closure.
- No amount of shaking, pushing, or pulling can disengage this latch. Only by lifting or pulling the release knob can the latch be released.
- Magnet never loses power. Key lockable.
- Low maintenance. Simple to install.
- The top rail of the fence enclosure is a minimum of 50" above grade.
- The bottom rail of the fence enclosure is 2" above grade.
- The horizontal open air spacing between pickets does not exceed 4" between all vertical pickets and support posts.
- The distance between the tops of the horizontal members is a minimum of 48".
- The access gate swings open outward away from the pool, spa or hot tub.
- All sides of enclosure are prefabricated, ready for installation.
- A set of polymer resin, glass-filled, composite alloy, tension-adjustable hinges are factory-installed on the access gate.
- Fence enclosure, gate and support posts manufactured from high strength extruded aluminum. Entire enclosure electrostatically dry powder coated.

This enclosure is a supplemental layer of protection for young children against the potential for drowning and near drowning in residential above ground, on ground swimming pools, spas, or hot tubs by limiting or delaying their access to swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs. This provides a means or a combination of means to exclude children from the pool, spa or hot tub area.



This enclosure conforms with the latest ANSI/NSPI-8 model barrier code for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs, and with CPSC, SBCCI, CABO, NY State and ICBO building code requirements.



Seasonmaster, Inc.