

EASTERN INTERLAKE PLANNING DISTRICT

*Serving the RM of Gimli, Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton,
Town of Arborg and the Town of Winnipeg Beach*

Swimming Pools and Hot Tubs

Recommendations for
private swimming pools and hot tubs.



January 1, 2024

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NOTE:

Strive for safety! The primary intent of these recommendations are to minimize the danger that pools and hot tubs present to small children. ***When in doubt, please side with caution.***

GENERAL INFORMATION

Do I require a building permit for a swimming pool?

Yes. A permit is required to construct or erect a pool or hot tub when located outdoors which is capable of containing over 600mm (2ft. or 24 in.) of water. Permits are also required for associated construction such as decks, change houses, sunrooms, etc.

What information do I have to bring with me in order to make application for a permit?

A copy of a Building Location Certificate done by a registered Manitoba Land Surveyor is required (some exceptions apply). Exceptions will allow for a site plan - see Figure 1.

If your pool will be *in ground* you will also require a structural design drawing of the pool bearing the seal of a Professional Engineer, registered in the Province of Manitoba.

Who is responsible for pool and hot tub safety?

It is the responsibility of the **property owner** to ensure appropriate safety measures are provided on site.

ZONING

Where on my property can I build the pool?

The Zoning By-Law (ZBL) requires that you locate your pool maintaining certain minimum setbacks from your property lines (see Figure 1). **Contact EIPD for the minimum yard requirements in your area.**

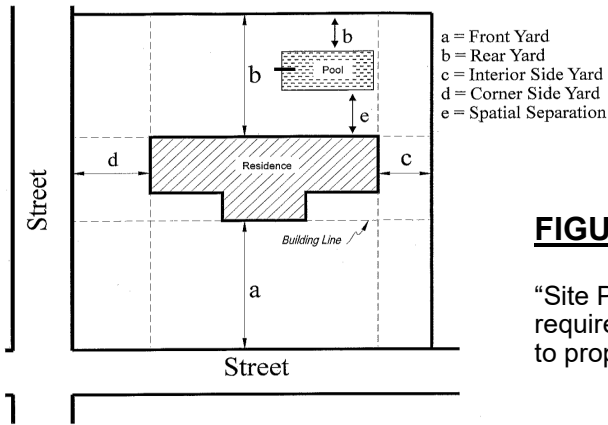


FIGURE 1

“Site Plan” will require distances to property lines.

ELECTRICAL

For the specific requirements associated with electrical components to pools and hot tubs, contact your local **Manitoba Hydro Office**.

Note: Certain gas heaters and chimneys may have restrictions on their location based on a minimum distance from nearby combustible materials. Consult with your gas utility company with regard to gas installation codes which may apply.

FENCING

What are the recommendations for fencing and gates?

An outdoor private pool should be enclosed with a fence or other suitable barrier.

This may include the following:

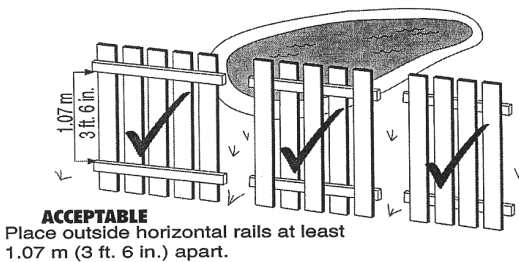
- a minimum vertical height of 1.5m (5 ft.) and a maximum vertical height as per your local Zoning By-Laws;

- b. no openings other than a door to a building or a gate as described in "c." below, and it should not be possible for a child to crawl under either the fence or the gate;
- c. any gate should be self-closing, at least 1.5m (5 ft.) in height and be equipped with a (self-latching) lockable latch to prevent unauthorized entry;
- d. where chain link fence is used, the mesh size should not exceed 50mm (2 in.) and the wire should be at least number 11 gauge;
- e. where other than chain link is used, the outside surface of the fence or gate should be relatively smooth so as not to provide foot or toe holds;
- f. it is recommended not to fill the pool with more than 600mm (24 in.) of water before the fencing has been completed.

It is recommended that the fence be kept in good repair with regular maintenance.

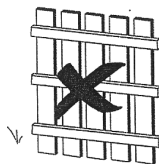
The illustrations found on the following pages are intended as guides. They are offered as suggestions only. Other alternatives may be used if safety can be achieved.

Vertical Board (picket)



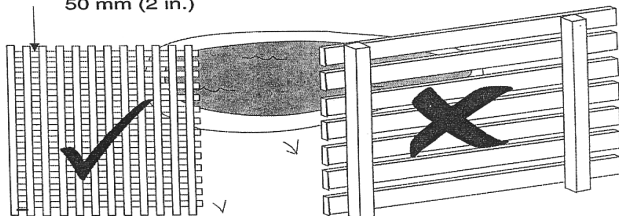
Note: The style of fence should not allow more than 100mm (4 in.) between the ground and the bottom of the fence.

- NOT ACCEPTABLE**
- When building this type of fence avoid closely spaced horizontal rails.
 - The fence should not be climbable.



Wooden Lattice and Horizontal Board

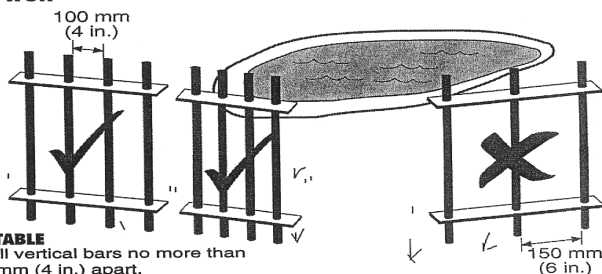
Maximum openings
50 mm (2 in.)



- ACCEPTABLE**
- Place horizontal straps on the inside of the fence.

- NOT ACCEPTABLE**
- There can be no space between horizontal boards.

Wrought Iron



- ACCEPTABLE**
- Install vertical bars no more than 100 mm (4 in.) apart.
 - Avoid the use of any decorative designs or leaf work which could provide foot or toe holds.
 - Install the latching in a fashion that it cannot be easily reached through the wrought iron.

- NOT ACCEPTABLE**
- Bars too far apart.

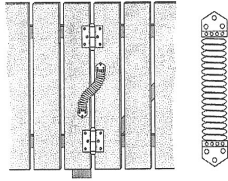
HARDWARE

Self-Closing Devices:

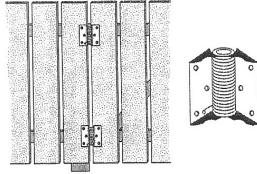
These are defined as devices which will cause any gate to return to a closed position without the aid of a push or pull from a person. The gate should close automatically to prevent unauthorized entry into the pool area. Self-closing devices should be kept in good repair and maintained often. Illustrated below are three commonly used types of closers designed to close the gate automatically.

Remember: These requirements are intended to prevent unauthorized entry of those persons too young to understand the dangers of your pool.

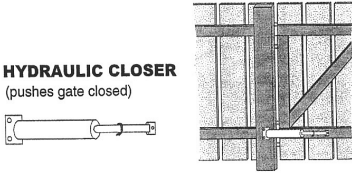
1. TORSION SPRING
(pushes gate closed)



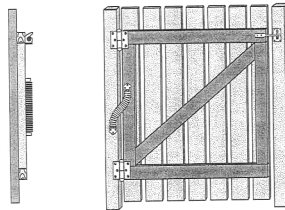
2. SPRING LOADED HINGES
(pushes gate closed)



3. HYDRAULIC CLOSER
(pushes gate closed)



EXAMPLE OF A SELF-CLOSING/AUTOMATICALLY LATCHING GATE:



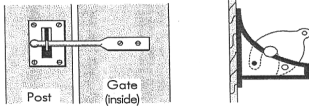
PROFILE

INSIDE VIEW

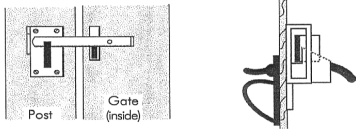
If a latch cannot be installed on the inside of the gate, install it at a safe height at the top of the gate where it cannot be easily reached by younger persons.

AUTOMATIC LATCHES:

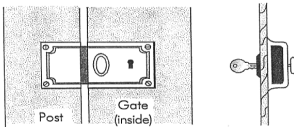
These are latches which become automatically secured upon contact with the closing gate. Some commonly used types are illustrated below.



1. TONGUE LATCH
Padlocks on gates are recommended when pools are left unattended.

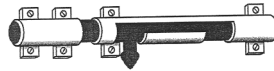


2. SLIDING BAR THUMB LATCH
This type of latch is often installed too low. It should be at a height of 1.37 m (4 ft. 6 in.) minimum.



3. KEY LATCH
This type of latch is spring loaded.

UNACCEPTABLE LATCH:



- This latch has to be manually engaged.
- It could impair the gate from self-closing and securing.

HOT TUBS

What is the recommendations for Hot tub covers?

It is recommended that the hot tub cover:

- i) has the structural strength to support the weight of an adult walking across the top of the cover when it is in the closed/covered position; and
- ii) is capable of being locked in the closed/covered position to prevent access to the water by unauthorized persons; and
- iii) the cover is in a closed and locked position when not in use or when unsupervised by an adult.

If the above cannot be achieved, then the previously mentioned fencing and gating systems should be installed.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Are there any precautions that should be taken when filling the pool with water?

Yes. It is possible that a garden hose used to fill the pool and left submerged in the water could cause the water supply to the house to become contaminated. A temporary loss of pressure in the water system could cause the pool water to be drawn, by siphon action, into the water supply lines in your house. This can be prevented by keeping the end of the hose out of the pool water during filling of the pool or by screwing a small device called a **hose bib vacuum breaker** onto the outside water tap. The hose bib vacuum breaker will prevent the water from flowing in a reverse direction. It may be purchased from any plumbing supply store.

Where can I drain my pool?

Contact your local municipal office for regulations on pool drainage.

For more information regarding this booklet please contact:

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