POOLS, HOT TUBS, AND SPAS
REGULATIONS AND PERMIT SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Permit Required
Building, plumbing, heating, and electrical
(NOTE: hot tubs and spas must be listed by an approval testing lab)

Submittal Requirements
1. Plans
   Three (3) site plans showing:
   a. Entire lot and all existing structures and setbacks;
   b. Proposed location of pool, hot tub, or spa and any equipment
      pad/enclosure;
   c. Existing electric and gas meter locations, and any overhead electric lines;
   d. Enclosure (fence) as required by PAMC Section 16.04.170 (see attached
      regulations and illustrations)

2. Utility Load Sheet
   Provide gas and electric information on all existing and proposed utility loads (i.e.
   all appliances-furnace, water heater, gas dryer, range, kiln, etc).

Setback Requirements
1. Pools, hot tubs, spas must be at least six (6) feet away from the outside edge of
   coping to the rear and side property lines and may not be located within front or
   street side yard setbacks. (Pursuant to PAMC 18.12.050 (F)).

2. All noise-producing equipment, such as air conditioners, pool equipment,
   generators, commercial kitchen fans, and similar service equipment, shall be
   located outside of the required front, rear and side yard setbacks. Such equipment
   may, however, be located up to six feet into a street side yard setback. All such
   equipment shall be insulated and housed, except that the planning director may
   permit installation without housing and insulation, provided the equipment is
   located within the building envelope and where a combination of technical noise
   specifications, location of equipment, and/or other screening or buffering will
   assure compliance with the city's Noise Ordinance at the nearest property line.
   Any replacement of such equipment shall conform to this section where feasible.
   All service equipment must meet the city's Noise Ordinance in Chapter 9.10 of
   the Municipal Code. (Pursuant to PAMC 18.12.040 (f)).

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, this document may be
provided in other accessible formats. For information, contact: Fred Herman, ADA director, City
of Palo Alto, 250 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301 (650) 329-2313 (voice); (650) 328-1199
(TDD)

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POOL FENCE REQUIREMENTS
(UBC Appendix Chapter 4, Div. 1)

In-ground or above-ground outdoor pools, hot tubs and spas must be provided with a barrier (fence). A swimming pool is any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24" deep. The top of any barrier (fence) must be a minimum of 60" above grade.

Fence on Grade

If distance between horizontal members is less than 45°, the horizontal members must be on the pool side of fence and the spacing between vertical members may not exceed 1 3/4". If distance between horizontal (or vertical) members is 45° or more, they may be on either side and spacing between vertical (or horizontal) members may not exceed 4". No more than 2" is permitted between bottom of fence and grade.

Above-Ground Pool

No more than 4" between top of pool and bottom of barrier.

Fence may be on grade or mounted on top of pool. Ladder or steps must be capable of being locked, secured or removed, or must be surrounded by barrier meeting all pool fence requirements.

Picket or Board

Where fence is made of horizontal and vertical members (as in a picket or board fence) and the distance between the horizontal members is 45° or more, spacing between vertical members may not exceed 4". Where the distance between horizontal members is less than 45° they must be on the pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members may not exceed 1 3/4".

Chain Link

Chain link fence shall be a minimum of 11 gauge.

Pedestrian Gates

Pedestrian gates shall swing away from the pool. Any gates other than pedestrian access gates shall be equipped with lockable hardware or padlocks and shall remain locked at all times when not in use.

Access gates must comply with all other pool fence requirements and be equipped with a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall be self-closing and self-latching. When the release mechanism device of the self-latching device is less than 24" from the bottom of the gate, (1) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3" below the top of the gate and (2) the gate and fence shall have no opening greater than ½" within 18" of the release mechanism.

Note: Hot tubs and spas equipped with a lockable cover and pools located on sites of one acre or more incorporating automatic, key operated covers are exempt from these requirements.