

Above Ground Pools

Do I need a permit for an above ground pool?

YES. Massachusetts Building Code specifies that above ground swimming pools that contain water over 24 inches in depth require a Building Permit prior to the installation of the pool. A permit can be issued to the Contractor/Installer or to the Homeowner.

How do I get a permit?

Permit applications can be downloaded from the Town Website (www.spencerma.gov) or may be picked up at the Office of Development & Inspectional Services.

What information will I need to apply for a permit?

You will need to provide the size and location of the pool, usually on a plot plan that indicates both the location of the pool and the property line setbacks. If you are hiring an installer, the company must provide a Worker's Compensation Affidavit. If the homeowner applies for the permit and acts as the general contractor for the project, he/she must provide documentation of worker's compensation insurance for any subcontractor they hire.

Will I need an electrical permit?

Yes. Electrical permits must be applied for by a licensed electrician. The electrician is responsible for obtaining the electrical permit and arranging for the electrical inspections.

I live in an apartment; can I have an above ground pool?

Yes. The property owner must sign the permit application.

Do I need to have my pool inspected by the Town? Who does the inspection?

Yes. Once the pool is installed, you or your contractor will need to contact the Office of Development & Inspectional Services for a final inspection by the Building Inspector to close out the permit. If electrical work was needed, your electrician must ensure that the electrical inspection has been done prior to calling for a final inspection from the Building Inspector.

Will my insurance company want any information regarding my above ground pool?

Possibly. Many homeowners send a copy of their permit with the Building Inspector's sign off on it to the company that provides their homeowner's insurance. Check with your insurance agent to be sure you do not lose coverage for failure to notify them.

Does my pool need to be secured with fencing or gating?

All above ground pools must be secured by a barrier at least 48" high.

Additionally, the pool ladder will require approved access protection.



Pools with a height of 48" or greater do not require fencing, however, the pool ladder will still require approved access protection. All pool equipment (filter, pump, etc.) must be located at least 3' from the edge of the pool.

Above ground pools with decks attached must have a self closing self latching gate with a latch release at 54" from the ground. If the deck is attached to the house an alarm audible in the house must be installed to notify the homeowner when the gate is open.

I want to put in an inflatable pool. Do I need to get a permit for it?

Yes. All above ground pools with over 24 inches of water depth require a Building Permits. However, temporary pools, such as the blue plastic inflatable pools that are taken down each year, fall under the "temporary structure" category in the permit fee schedule and must be re-