

**ZONING
INFORMATION
BULLETIN NO 2**

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Swimming Pools In Watertown Charter Township

Swimming pools are a great asset to your home, and can provide for much enjoyment during our hot Michigan summers. There are a few regulations regarding swimming pools that are required by the township, and some safety tips that everyone should consider carefully before installing a swimming pool.

Required Permits

Zoning permits are required for all permanent pools. They are not required for inflatable or “kiddie pools.”

If the water level is over two feet, a building permit is required. If the pool has a heater, a mechanical permit is required. All electric associated with the pool, including the heater, filter system and lights requires an electrical permit.

Fencing

Everyone who owns land on which a swimming pool exists or is proposed which contains more than 24 inches of water at any point must erect and maintain a fence approved by the zoning administrator or building inspector. This fence should be not less than four feet, or more than six feet high, and all gates must be self-latching and be kept inaccessible from the outside. Gate latches must be no less than four feet above grade.

If the pool has direct access to the house, an alarm must be installed at each access point. Alarms, including wireless and battery operated, are available from a wide range of electronics dealers.

Location

Pools which are two feet or less above grade (inground pools) must be located at least five feet from side or rear lot lines.

Pools which are two feet or more above grade (above ground pools) must be at least ten feet from side or rear lot lines.

Swimming pools are not permitted in the front yard.

Safety Tips

Keep standard pool safety equipment, including life preservers, a rope, and pole easily accessible to all pool users. Post emergency numbers in the pool area. If you have or are intending to build a pool, you may want to consider taking a CPR class.

Be certain a responsible adult who knows how to swim and who is not distracted by other tasks is watching children in the pool at all times.

Do not allow anyone who has been drinking to use the pool.

Do not assume that your guests or their children know how to swim.

Maintain good water quality under the consultation of a pool professional. If you can't see the bottom of the pool at its deepest point, do not use the pool, and contact a professional to mitigate the water quality problems.