



Brett P. Smiley, Mayor

Department of Inspection and Standards

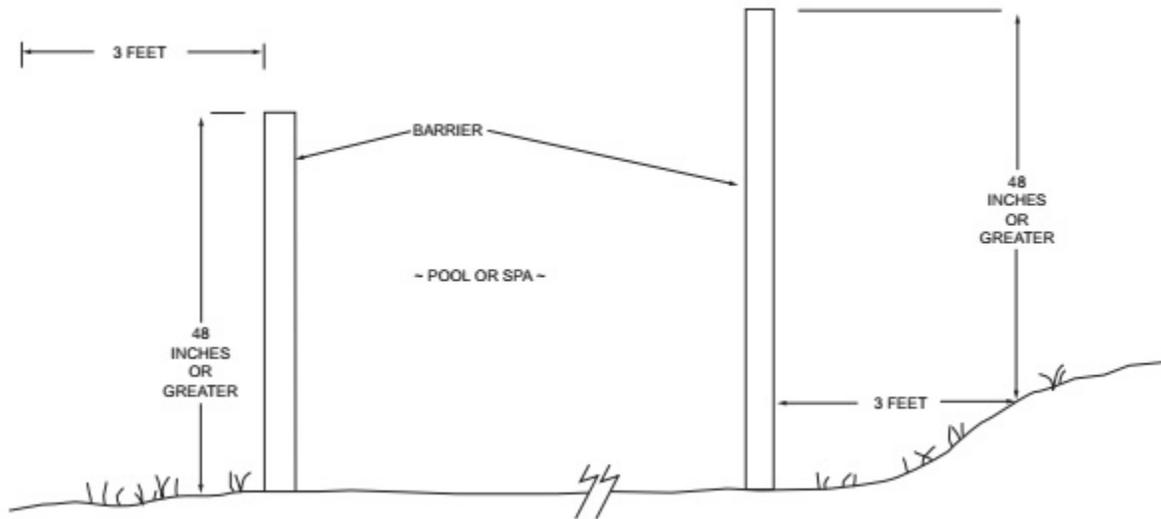
James C. Moore III, Director
Kevin Mahoney Deputy Director

Rhode Island Pool Barrier Basics

Incorporates the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, 2018 Edition. A permit is required for a pool or spa capable of holding 24" or more of water

Basic Rules: BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

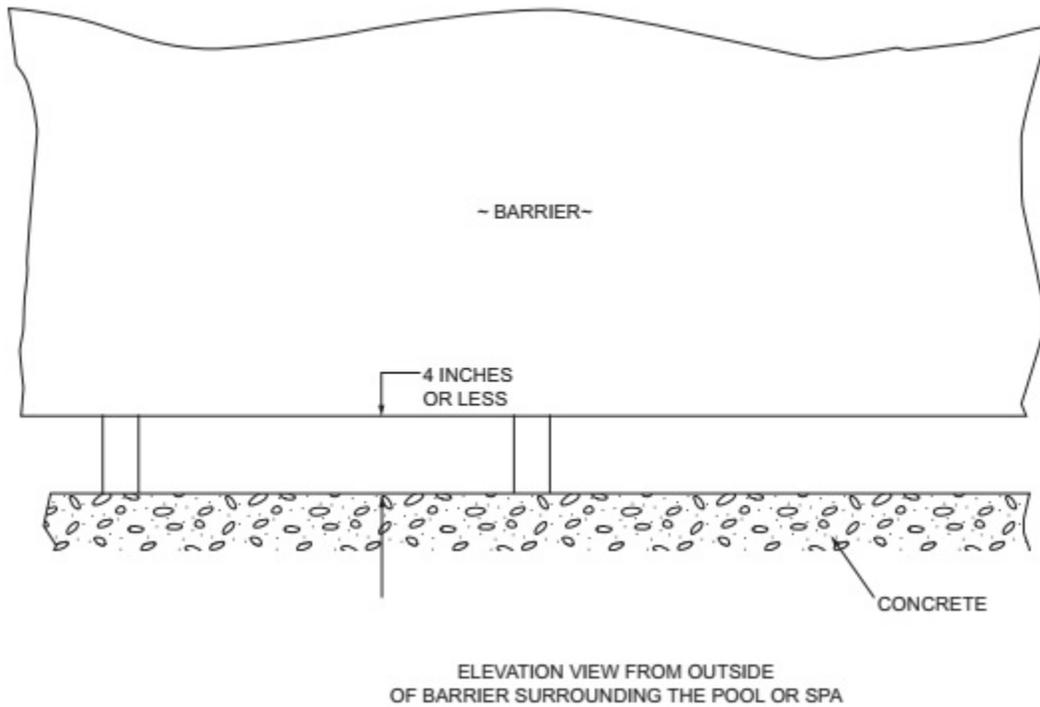
305.2.9 Clear zone (Setback)



There shall be a clear zone of not less than **36 inches** between the exterior of the barrier and any permanent structures or equipment such as pumps, filters and heaters that can be used to climb the barrier.

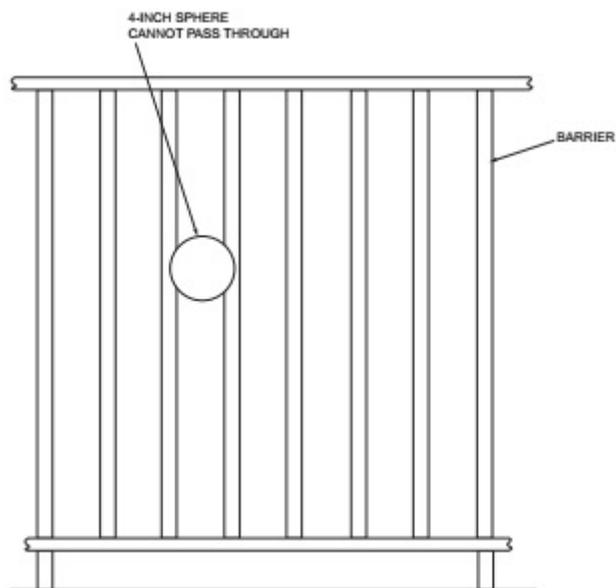
305.2.1 Barrier Height and clearances: At least **48 inches** tall (measured from outside).

Gap at Bottom:



≤ 2 inches from the ground (if grass or soil).

≤ 4 inches (if on concrete or hard surface).



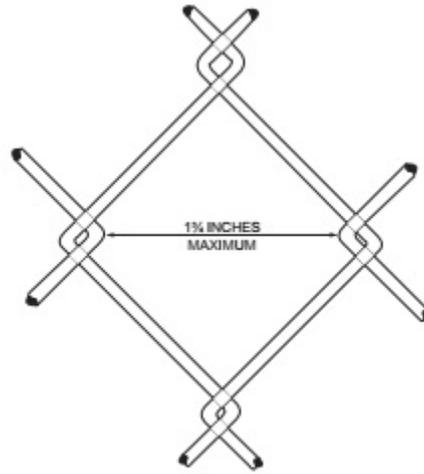
Openings: No gaps big enough for a **4-inch sphere** to pass through.

Climb-Resistant Design:

No horizontal rails or footholds if rails are \leq **45 inches apart** (unless on pool side)

No handholds or surfaces that help climbing.

305.2 Mesh Fences as barrier



ELEVATION VIEW

Must follow same height & gap rules. Min 20" from water edge for inground pools

Must be anchored securely and require **tools to remove**.

305.3 Gates

All gates must:

Be **self-closing** and **self-latching**.

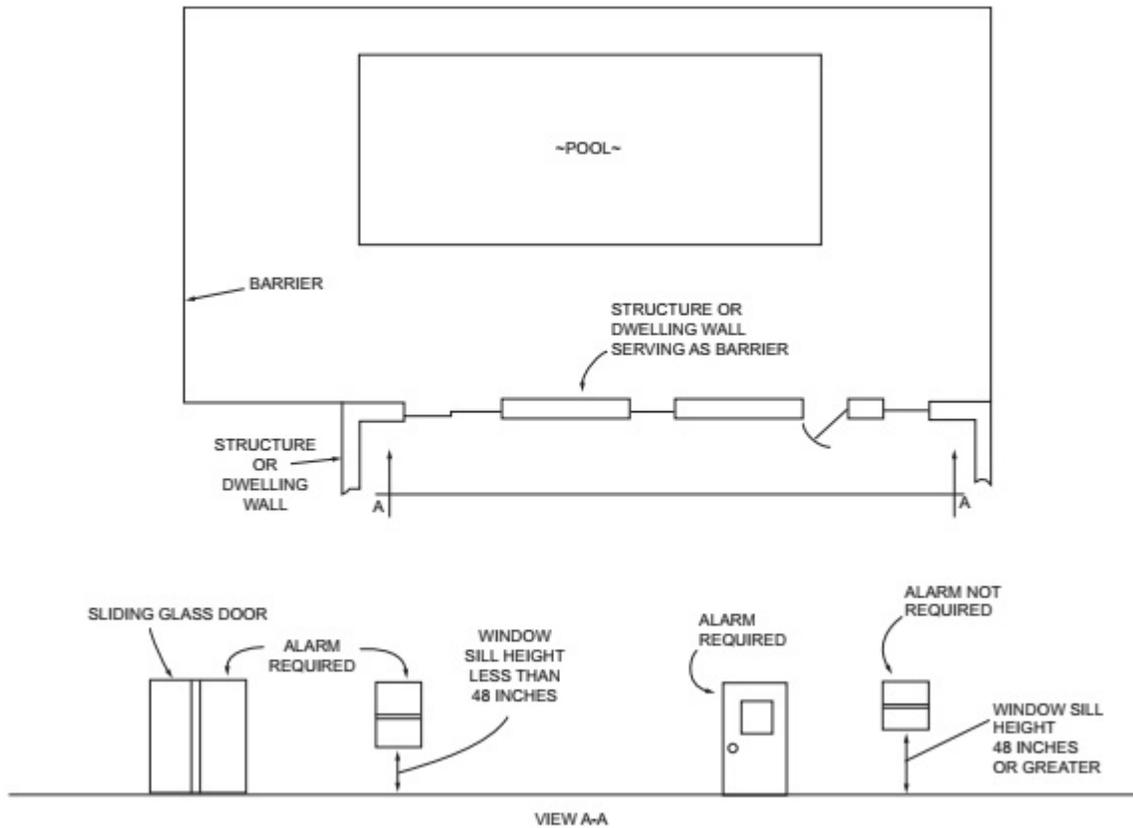
Latch must be:

At least **54 inches high** on pool side. Not less than **3 inches** below the top of the gate or barrier with no gaps larger than $\frac{1}{2}$ " within 18" of the release mechanism.

Gates must open away from the pool.

Double gates: One side must stay locked; the other must self-close and latch.

305.4 If House Wall is Part of Barrier Options:



Door alarms (85 dB, activate within 7 seconds, run 30 seconds, auto-reset).

Powered safety cover (ASTM F1346 compliant).

Other approved safety methods The alarm shall be *listed* and *labeled* as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017

305.5 Above-Ground Pools

Pool walls can count as barrier **if they're 48 inches tall or more.**

Ladders/steps must be:

Removable, or

Lockable, or

Enclosed by a barrier if not removable.

Applicable Zoning sections for Pools/Hot Tubs:

- **1302.R. Swimming Pools and Hot Tubs**

No private swimming pool or hot tub, or portion thereof, including, but not limited to, aprons, walks, and mechanical equipment, integral to the pool, may be located within a front yard, or within a required corner side or interior side setback.

- **Table 4-1 Residential Dimensional Standards**

- A Pool/Hot tub and any associated impervious apron shall be counted towards rear yard and total impervious maximums.

Example Site Plan - Swimming Pool

