

RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOL SAFETY REGULATION

SUMMARY OF THE REGULATION'S STANDARDS FOR THE INFORMATION OF CITIZENS

BACKGROUND

Residential swimming pools, regardless of type (aboveground, inground or portable), represent a major risk of drowning for young children, especially if they slip away from the supervision of an adult and the pool is not properly secured.

Adopted in 2010, the [Residential Swimming Pool Safety Regulation](#) is aimed at controlling the access of young children to residential swimming pools using simple measures, such as the installation of an enclosure fitted with a safety gate.

This document presents an overview of the requirements that apply to residential swimming pools under the Regulation. To learn more about these changes, go to the MAMH [Website](#).

Note that municipalities are responsible for applying the Regulation and that a municipal permit is required for the following work:

- building, installing or replacing a swimming pool;
- installing a diving board;
- erecting an enclosure, platform or patio opening onto a pool.

Moreover, municipalities can adopt stricter rules than those contained in the Regulation.

Owners or future buyers should seek specific information from their municipal administration about the applicable rules.

POOLS COVERED

The Regulation applies to all outdoor residential pools that can hold 60 cm of water or more, whether inground, semi-inground, aboveground or portable (inflatable or other).

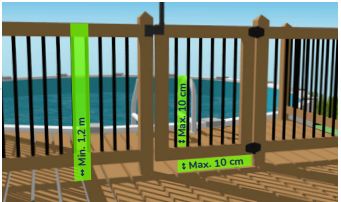
The Regulation does not apply to:

- Hot tubs, with the exception of those with a capacity of more than 2,000 litres of water;
- Natural bodies of water;
- Water gardens and other decorative ponds not intended for swimming.

RULES GOVERNING ENCLOSURES

When installation of an enclosure is required, it must comply with the following:

- be at least 1.2 m in height;
- prevent the passage of a spherical object more than 10 cm in diameter (e.g., between the bars or between the ground and the base of the enclosure);
- Not be designed to be easily scaled.



Where the enclosure is a chain-link fence, the mesh must have a maximum width of 30 mm. If not, slats must be inserted into the mesh.

This requirement applies only to chain-link fences installed since July 1, 2021. A fence acquired before July 1, 2021, but installed no later than September 30, 2021, is also exempt from this requirement.



A wall of a building (house, garage) can form part of an enclosure. However, the part of the wall serving as an enclosure must meet the following requirements:

- not have a door allowing direct access to the pool. If necessary, an enclosure can be installed around the door;
- Not have windows situated less than 3 m from the ground, except if their maximum opening does not allow the passage of a spherical object more than 10 cm in diameter.
 - It is important to check with your municipality to see if its regulation allows for the installation of mechanisms restricting window openings.



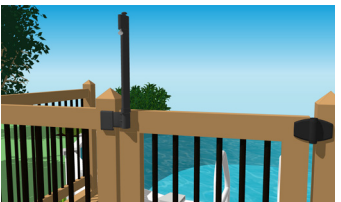
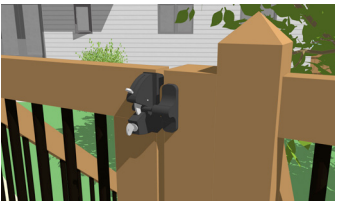
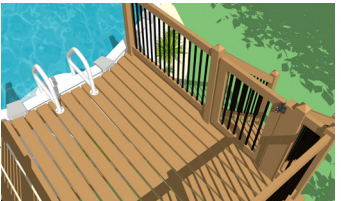
RULES GOVERNING ENCLOSURE GATES

An enclosure gate must comply with the same requirements described above.

It must also be equipped with a self-closing and selflatching security device.

A passive security device (latch) can be installed in two places:

- On the inside of the enclosure, in the upper part of the gate;
- On the outside of the enclosure, at a minimum height of 1.5 m from the ground.



CONTROL OF ACCESS – INGROUND OR SEMI-INGROUND POOL

Inground and semi-inground pools must always be surrounded by an enclosure.



CONTROL OF ACCESS – ABOVEGROUND OR PORTABLE POOL

The following pools must be surrounded by an enclosure:

- aboveground pool with a wall height of less than 1.2 m from the ground;
- a portable pool with a wall height of less than 1.4 m from the ground.



In all other cases, pools are not required to be surrounded by an enclosure if access to the pool is by:

- a detachable ladder equipped with a self-closing and self-latching safety device;
- a platform, access to which is protected by an enclosure;
- a patio attached to the residence and laid out so that the part giving access to the swimming pool is secured by an enclosure.



DEVICES LINKED TO THE POOL’S OPERATION

In order to prevent children from climbing to gain access to the swimming pool, the filter and all other operating devices must be installed:

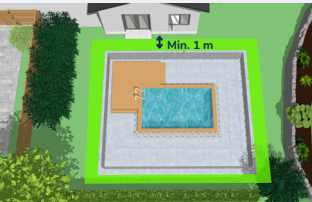
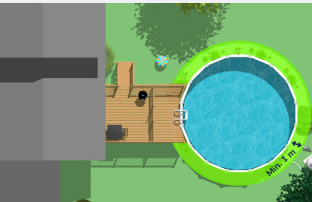
- more than 1 m from the pool wall or enclosure (when installed outside the enclosure);
- inside the enclosure;
- under a structure at least 1.2 m high that cannot be easily scaled and prevents access to the swimming pool or enclosure from devices (e.g., under a patio);
- in a shed.



LANDSCAPING AROUND AN ENCLOSURE OR POOL

A 1 m buffer strip must be maintained around the outside of the enclosure or wall of a pool that is not surrounded by an enclosure:

- no structure or fixed equipment likely to be used for climbing over the enclosure or pool wall may be installed inside this buffer strip (e.g., retaining wall, playground set for children).
- This requirement does not apply to portable equipment, such as garden furniture and tools, or trees. It is recommended, however, that such equipment not be left too near the pool or enclosure and that tree branches that could present a risk be trimmed.



No building window should be within this 1 m buffer strip, except if it:

- is located at least 3 m from the ground; or
- has a restricted opening that does not allow the passage of a spherical object more than 10 cm in diameter.

This requirement applies only to pools and enclosures installed since July 1, 2021. A pool or enclosure acquired before July 1, 2021, but installed no later than September 30, 2021, is also exempt from this requirement.

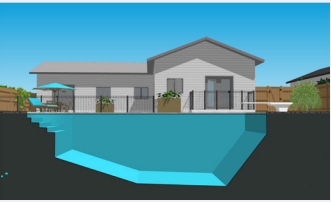
POOL WITH A DIVING BOARD

A pool equipped with a diving board must be installed in compliance with standard BNQ 9461-100. This standard sets out the dimensional and geometric specifications for the minimum water envelope required to provide a safe environment for diving in a residential pool.

To learn more about the applicable requirements, refer directly to the full BNQ 9461-100 standard available free of charge on the [website of the Bureau de normalisation du Québec](#).

Owners should contact a professional to ensure that they are complying with the standard. This standard requires that installation and construction plans be prepared for all residential swimming pools equipped with a diving board.

This requirement applies only to pools and diving boards installed since July 1, 2021. A pool or diving board acquired before July 1, 2021, but installed no later than September 30, 2021, is also exempt from this requirement.



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Free translation of the April 2023 version of the *Règlement sur la sécurité des piscines résidentielles – document-synthèse résumant les normes du règlements à l'intention des citoyens et des citoyennes*. The Ministry does not vouch for the translated version and that any discrepancies between the French and English versions should be interpreted in favour of the French version.