

# Boone County Building Department

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601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 (815) 544-6176

## *Swimming Pools/Hot Tubs*

This handout serves *only* as a guide and does not contain all of the requirements of Boone County Building Codes.

### **To all builders and homeowners;**

As the Building Department for unincorporated Boone County, we are committed to the quality of construction within our jurisdiction. The following handout has been created in order to assist in more efficient permitting and construction by offering information and guidelines as well as common mistakes our department encounters. We ask that you please refer to this handout, as the information contained herein can potentially be time and cost effective for all parties.

This handout outlines many, but not all, of Boone County codes. It is important to note that ALL building and zoning codes must be in compliance. The codes that are in effect for Boone County at this time are as follows:

International Residential Code 2003 with local amendments  
International Building Code 2003  
National Electrical Code 2005 with local amendments  
Illinois Plumbing Code 2004 with local amendments  
Boone County Zoning Ordinance  
International Energy Conservation Code 2000 with 2001 Supplement (commercial only)

An appointment is no longer required for a building permit. Information for a building permit may be dropped off, mailed, or faxed to our department at any time. Once the review is complete the applicant will be notified whether it complied. Please note that any missing information can result in the delay of your processing. A building permit will be released once the review is approved and payment has been received.

Michele Holsker, our permit technician, will be the contact person regarding all applications. Any questions regarding the application process should be directed to her. If you have a technical question regarding building or zoning codes, Michele will take a message and an inspector will return your call.

- **Building Department** 544-6176
- **Electrical Inspector, Phil Long** 547-8669
- **Plumbing Inspector, Gunnar Bergland** 1-737-2222

**\*\*Candlewick Building Department** 765-2827

Construction projects must be approved by Candlewick Lake Association before the County can issue a permit. (Roofing permits excluded.) Please be sure to include your Candlewick approved site plan and Candlewick hard card (blue card) with your submitted county application.

**\*\*If you are located in one of the following incorporated areas please contact that person or office for all zoning and building inquires.**

- **City of Belvidere** 547-7177
- **Village of Capron**
  - Independent Inspections 1-800-422-5220
  - Capron Village Hall 569-2206
- **Village of Caledonia**
  - Diedra Johnson 765-3271
- **Village of Poplar Grove** 765-3201
- **Village of Timberlane**
  - Independent Inspections 1-800-422-5220

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**A permit is required for any structure that contains water over 24 inches deep, including in-ground, above-ground and on-ground pools, hot tubs, and spas.**

*Required information when applying for a permit:*

□ Site plan: size and location of structure, distance of structure to lot lines, height of structure, location of well and septic, location of any existing structures, location of 48-inch barrier.

*Note: Prior to permit, you must call J.U.L.I.E. (1-800-892-0123). Once the structure location is marked out, the site plan only must be submitted to the Building Department for approval. Upon approval you must call Phil Long, electrical inspector, at 547-8669 for pool layout approval.*

□ Health Department Approval: for in-ground pools only

□ Building Permit Application: value of construction, owner information, contractor information including electrical and plumbing license numbers as well as plumber's contractor's number

*Guidelines for building a swimming pool/hot tub:*

□ Setbacks: Pools, hot tubs, and spas are permitted uses within Residential and Agricultural Districts. Contact zoning inspector for property setback requirements.

□ Location: No swimming pools allowed in front yards.

□ Barrier Height: The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches above grade. Maximum clearance between grade and bottom of barrier shall be 2 inches. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool, the maximum clearance between the top of the pool and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches.

□ Barrier Openings: Openings in barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch sphere. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be 2.25 inch square.

□ Gates: Access gates shall open away from the pool and be equipped with a self-latching and a self-closing mechanism. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism must be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate. The gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than 1/2" within 18 inches of the release mechanism.

□ Dwelling as a Barrier: When a wall of the residence is used as a barrier, the pool must be equipped with a powered safety cover, or the doors with direct access to the pool must be equipped with an alarm system capable of being heard throughout the house.

□ Above-Ground Walls as a Barrier: When the walls of an above-ground pool serve as the barrier the ladder/steps shall be capable of being locked or removed to prevent access.

□ Spas/Hot tubs: Spas/hot tubs with a locking safety cover are exempt from the 48-inch barrier requirement.

*Required inspections:*

Final: When structure is completed AND electrical inspection (Phil Long, 544-6176) has been approved, but before occupancy