

# Boone County Building Department

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1212 Logan Ave, 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.

**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 ½" 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:*

Mechanical:

1. Gas piping must be inspected prior to burial.
2. A final inspection is required for the pool heater once installed.

Electrical:

1. Pre-pool location inspection.
2. Bonding.
3. Rough-in.
4. Final.

Plumbing:

1. Vacuum breaker/backflow protection.
2. Final.

Final: When mechanical, plumbing and electrical have been approved, and all barrier requirements are completed, but prior to use of pool.