

# FAQ

## Frequently Asked Questions about Private Swimming Pools

### Q: Do I need a building permit before I install a private swimming pool?

A: Yes, a building permit must be obtained prior to constructing a private swimming pool which is defined as “any constructed or prefabricated structure used or intended to be used for swimming, bathing, or wading” and having a surface area exceeding 9m<sup>2</sup> (96.9ft<sup>2</sup>) and a depth of more than 600mm (2ft), which is situated on any privately owned real property, but does not include a self-contained hot tub with a locking cover, or a temporary, seasonal pool kit which is deconstructed at the closing of swimming season annually, or a pool that is subject to the [Pool Regulation](#) under the *Public Health Act*, SBC 2008.

**Note:** After the building permit has been obtained, the owner of the swimming pool shall have the required fencing (see below) inspected and approved by the Building Inspector before the pool is filled.

### Q: Do I need to have a fence around my swimming pool?

A: Yes, regardless of whether a building permit is required for installing the pool, every private swimming pool as defined in the Private Swimming Pool regulation Bylaw No. 375-97 needs to have a minimum 1.2 m (3.9 ft) high fence around it to prevent children from entering the pool area unsupervised. Any gates into the pool area shall be equipped with self-closing gates designed to return to a locked position when not in use. Fencing requirements are not applicable to hot tubs with secured covers, or to ornamental ponds with a depth under 600 mm (2ft). All fence design requirements can be viewed in the [Private Swimming Pool regulation Bylaw No. 375-97](#).

### Q: Do I need to have a walkway around my swimming pool?

A: Yes, a minimum 1.2 m (3.9 ft) wide walkway around the perimeter of the swimming pool is required.

### Q: Are there regulations for sanitary sewer connection?

A: Yes, every swimming pool located on a lot serviced with a City sanitary sewer connection is required to have a backwash pump connected to the sanitary sewer system.

If located on a lot without a City sanitary sewer connection, the swimming pool water must drain to a rock pit located not less than 30 m from a septic field or watercourse. Swimming pool water may not be discharged so as to cause erosion or siltation of water bodies, damage to adjacent property, or elevated flows in receiving water courses.

### Q: Does my pool count towards the maximum lot coverage?

A: No.

### Q: Do setbacks apply to my pool?

A: Yes. The setbacks for an accessory building or structure, as outlined in the applicable zone, will apply.

## Q: Is my pool permitted under the updated ALR Use Regulation?

A: Refer to [ALC Bulletin 07](#) "Soil or Fill Uses in the ALR" which requires the pool be contained within the 1000 m<sup>2</sup> area permitted for soil deposit or removal. Proposals exceeding the limitations of the ALR Use Regulation will require either a Notice of Intent to the CEO of the Commission, or a Soil or Fill Use application to the Commission under s. 25 of the ALCA.

For more information refer to the City of Abbotsford Private Swimming Pool Regulation Bylaw No. 375-97 available on our website [www.abbotsford.ca](http://www.abbotsford.ca) or contact the Building Permits & Licences Division.

*Tip: Check your property title for any restrictions your land may have. Your property title can be searched through the Land Title Office (88 6th Street, New Westminster, 1-877-577-5872 or [www.ltsa.ca](http://www.ltsa.ca)). Your lawyer or notary can assist you with this.*

