



NOTICE TO SWIMMING POOL OWNERS REGARDING PROVIDING POOL BARRIER

I, (property owner's name) _____
at (address of pool) _____
on this date _____, **have read and understand** this pool barrier notice and understand the penalties for not complying with Florida Law. I have been informed that, prior to filling pool with water, I will need approved inspections and a barrier as required by [515 Florida Statutes](#) and section R4501.17 of the 8th Edition FBC.

The Code requires pools to be protected by a barrier (an approved wall, fence or other substantial structure). The barrier shall completely protect the pool and is intended to prevent unauthorized and/or unsupervised access to the pool. Effective March 1, 2002, jurisdictions cannot approve a final inspection for a pool unless it meets the following pool safety barrier requirements.

NOTE: An effective pool barrier must be provided. **One, or a combination** of the following methods, must be employed to provide the barrier. Please read **all** of the following, as some of the methods inter-relate to each other.

- The pool may be isolated from access by a fence type barrier. If so, it shall be at least 4 feet (48") high and installed around the perimeter of the pool. Any openings in the barrier (railing, spacing, etc.) shall be less than 4" (inches). It must be designed to discourage climbing from the outside (www.floridabuilding.org link to the code). It must be placed far enough away from the water's edge to prevent a person from falling into the pool should the fence type barrier be climbed or fallen over.
 - Gates or doors located near the pool must open outwards, away from the pool, and be self-closing and self-latching. The latch must be inside, or if outside, at least 54" (inches) high. The gates and barrier shall have no opening greater than ½ inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism. Residential swimming pools shall comply with Sections R4501.17.1 through R4501.17.3.
 - A wall or other similar structure that meets the requirements could form the barrier. Reinforced screen pool enclosures are an example, as are typical walls of homes. If the wall of the home is part of the required barrier, any doors or windows in that wall must be equipped with an alarm that has a minimum sound pressure rating of 85 decibels at 10 feet and comply with UL 2017. A delay / muting switch, at least 54 inches high, shall be provided for each door with an alarm (except as noted in the next paragraph).
Exceptions:
 - a. Screened or protected windows having a bottom sill height of 48 inches (1219 mm) or more measured from the interior finished floor at the pool access level.
 - b. Windows facing the pool on floor above the first story.
 - c. Screened or protected pass-through kitchen windows 42 inches (1067 mm) or higher with a counter beneath.
2. All doors providing direct access from the home to the pool must be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with positive mechanical latching/locking installed a minimum of 54 inches (1372 mm) above the threshold, which is approved by the authority having jurisdiction.



Community Development Department
Building Safety Division
840 West 11th Street
Panama City, FL 32401
850-248-8350

Form B30

3. A swimming pool alarm that, when placed in a pool, sounds an alarm upon detection of an accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. Such pool alarm must meet and be independently certified to ASTM Standard F2208, titled "Standard Safety Specification for Residential Pool Alarms," which includes surface motion, pressure, sonar, laser, and infrared alarms. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "swimming pool alarm" does not include any swimming protection alarm device designed for individual use, such as an alarm attached to a child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water.

- The alarms on the doors may be omitted if the doors are equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with the release mechanism located at least 54 inches above the floor. Windows still need the alarms.
- The required pool barrier could be a **safety cover** complying with the specifications of American Society for Testing and Materials **Standard F-1346**. This is a substantial structural cover, and is not the same as a standard cover or heating blanket. Fencing, window alarms, and high door latches would not necessarily be required with the **safety cover** barrier method.

Property Owner's Signature

Date