

Swimming Pool and Spa Safety

Spring has sprung! Pool and spas are now being opened for seasonal use. This is the time to think about the safety and well-being of your family and friends and an even a better time to review your pool safety equipment to verify all is in good working order.

The New Jersey Uniform Construction Code regulates minimum safety requirements for pools and spas. This is a minimum code so additional safety items are encouraged to be installed. Remember that your insurance provider is expecting your pool or spa to be in compliance with these critical safety regulations.

Here are a few of the simple code regulations you must comply.

- All pools **must** be protected with a barrier (*fence*)
 - Barriers shall be at minimum 48" tall and surround your pool or property on all four sides
 - Barrier access gates must open outward away from the pool or spa and be self-closing and have a self-latching lockable device.
 - Barriers must not be climbable and clearances for openings shall be no greater than 4". Barrier requirements change based on the type of barrier (*fence*) installed.
- Drain and suction outlets shall be equipped with approved safety drain covers or a safety vacuum relief system. Keep children away from these openings. Covers must comply with the Federal Safety Standards.
- A Spa or hot tub must be equipped with lockable safety covers unless an approved barrier is provided.

Remember all these safety devices do not replace adult supervision or water safety skills and the information above is not the complete code. Please remember that the code requirements are minimum requirements and additional safety items can be used.

For more useful information visit: <https://www.poolsafely.gov/parents/safety-tips/>

SWIM SAFELY AND ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!