

SPA CODE for in-ground or above ground spas and hot tubs.

All spa plans submitted for permits will be required to include spa barrier and enclosure details that illustrate compliance with the following information.

Sec. 417 Barriers and Enclosures

- A. Outdoor residential spas shall be provided with an enclosure and barrier meeting the following requirements:
1. Barriers and enclosures shall be a minimum of 4 feet in height above finished grade or other walking surface, measured on the side, outside the spa enclosure from the spa.
 2. No opening in a barrier or enclosure shall allow passage of a sphere larger than 4 inches.
 3. The vertical distance between the bottom of a barrier or enclosure and the finished grade or walking surface shall not exceed 4 inches.
 4. The barrier or enclosure shall be constructed so as not to provide opportunity for climbing on the side, outside the spa enclosure from the spa.
 - a. Footholds or handholds shall be not less than 48 inches from the top of the enclosure, or 48 inches from the finished grade, or other walking surface measured on the side, outside the spa enclosure from the spa. Openings in chain-link fences, exceeding 1 inches shall be slatted.
 - b. Wrought iron or wood barriers or enclosures shall be constructed with at least 48 inches between the top surface of the horizontal members.
 - c. Where the protrusion, indentation, or top surface is at a continuous angle of inclination towards the barrier or enclosure equal to 45 degrees above the horizontal and otherwise does not provide a handhold or foothold, it shall be deemed not to provide an opportunity for climbing, for purposes of this code.
 - d. Any space which falls within the area described by a 48 inch radius, centered at the top of the barrier/enclosure, must be maintained free of all natural or man made objects.
 5. Gates placed in an enclosure or barrier shall comply with the above. All gates shall be not less than 48" in height and be self-closing and self-latching. Where the latch is less than 54" above the walking surface or 50" above a foothold, the latch shall be installed on the spa side of the gate not less than 42" above the walking surface, and the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than 1 inch within 18 inches of the latch. Gates in a barrier shall be installed to swing in a direction opposite the spa.
 6. The Building Official may grant an exception to the requirements of enclosing a spa when he or she finds that there is a barrier or enclosure existing on the premises

by reason of thorny/spiny vegetation, landscaping, or topography suitable to prevent access to the spa area.

- B. A securable space cover may be used for a barrier and enclosure if all the following conditions are met:
1. When in the closed position, a sphere 4 inches in diameter is prevented from reaching the water surface.
 2. The cover is designed to support a static load of 100 pounds.
 3. The spa width or diameter does not exceed eight feet (8').
- C. A spa safety cover may be used for a barrier or enclosure if all the following conditions are met:
1. When in the closed position, a sphere 4 inches in diameter is prevented from reaching the water surface.
 2. The cover is designed to support a static load of 100 pounds.
 3. The electric motor switch shall be key-operated or locked and there shall be an additional power disconnect located not less than 48" above the finished grade, deck or other walking surfaces.
- D. Any wall of a dwelling or other building may be used as part of an enclosure or barrier if all the following conditions are met:
1. Windows leading to the spa area shall be provided with a latching device located not less than 42 inches above the floor.
 2. Hinged doors leading to the spa area shall be self-closing/self-latching with the latch located not less than 42 inches above the finished grade or other walking surface, measured on the side, outside the spa enclosure from the spa. Hinged screen doors when used as a barrier shall be self-closing/self-latching and protected with a substantial grill on the spa side to a minimum height of 36" above the walking surface.
 3. A sliding door leading to the spa area shall be provided with a self-closing and self-latching device on the door of the screen not less than 42 inches above the finished grade or other walking surface, measured on the side, outside the spa enclosure from the spa. Screen doors shall be protected with a substantial grill on the spa side to a minimum height of 36" above the walking surface.