

	STANDARD OPERATING POLICY AND PROCEDURE Community Development and Public Works	Number: 9-1
Subject: Wall Barriers for Residential Pools		Approval Date: March 20, 2007
Approval: Chuck King, Building Official		Effective Date: March 20, 2007

1.0 PURPOSE

To address the use of Window Walls within a Wall Barrier system for Residential Pools

2.0 DISTRIBUTION

Public, Community Development and Public Works (CDPW) Personnel

3.0 REVISION HISTORY

September 18, 2008
 February, 2016

4.0 CODE REFERENCE

2012 Oro Valley Pool and Spa Code, Chapter 4 Barriers and Enclosures

5.0 POLICY

In residential applications only, the *pool and spa code* provides an option to use the wall of a dwelling as part of an enclosure or barrier if it meets specific minimum criteria (see Section 401.5). A current design trend in residential construction is the use of window walls. A window wall is defined as; an area that contains more than one active panel without interruption by a fixed panel in any one wall or any combination of walls. One of the primary uses of a window wall system is to allow the indoor and outdoor spaces to be seamless. The intent is that the operable panels will remain in the open position for extended periods of time.

By separate application when no other reasonable means of securing the area is possible, and as determined by the *building official*, the *building official* may grant the use of an alarm system as an alternative design method to meet pool barrier requirements (see Section 401.6). The alarm will sound if a door or window is opened to the pool area and is intended to alert the residents that the barrier has been breached. Since the intent of a window wall system is for the active window panels to remain open, the pool barrier is compromised by design and intent. This would leave the pool unprotected and would create potential for a serious life safety concern. Therefore, **a window wall may not be used as a part of a wall barrier under any circumstances, nor will an alarm system be approved as an alternative design method for a window wall system.** A separate pool barrier/enclosure or an approved pool cover will be required when window walls adjoin swimming pool and spa areas.