

RESIDENTIAL POOL SAFETY

To educate residential pool owners on proper pool safety and the legal requirements of pool ownership, the Arizona State Legislature has passed A.R.S. § 36-1681 to prevent children from gaining unsupervised access to residential swimming pools.

Pool Enclosure Requirements

A.R.S. § 36-1681 requires that all residential swimming pools are enclosed by a barrier. Unless a local code** provides otherwise, the barrier must:

- Entirely enclose the pool area & be at least *5 feet high*
- Not have openings, handholds, or footholds that can be used to climb the barrier
- Have *no openings* through which an object *4 inches in diameter can pass*
- Be at least *20 inches from the water's edge* & prevent direct access from the house to the pool.

If the *wall of the residence* forms part of the pool enclosure, there must be:

- A barrier at least *4 feet high between the residence and the pool*
- A motorized safety pool cover that requires a key switch and meets the ASTM standards in F1346-91 (www.astm.org)
- *Self-latching devices on all doors* with direct access to the pool, and self-latching devices at least *54 inches above the floor* on all emergency or rescue windows with direct access to the pool
- For all other open able windows with access to the pool or pool area: screwed in place wire mesh screens or a keyed lock that prevent opening a window more than 4 inch, or *self-latching devices at least 54 inches above the floor.*

Gate Requirements

A.R.S. § 36-1681(B)(3) requires that *all gates* for the pool enclosure be: *self-closing & open outward from the pool.* The *latches must be located at least 54 inches above the ground*, or if on the pool side with a release mechanism:

- Located at least 5 inches below the top of the gate & so that no opening greater than 1/2 inch is within 24 inches of the release mechanism
- Secured at any height if secured by a padlock or similar device that requires a key, electronic opener, or integral combination.

Above Ground Pools

A.R.S. § 36-1681 (C)(4) requires that the exterior sides of an aboveground pool are non-climbable and a minimum of 4 feet high. Any access ladder or steps must be secured and locked or removed when the pool is not in use.