

Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department

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REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS Ogle County, Illinois

When is a Zoning Certificate (permit) required for a swimming pool?

The Ogle County Amendatory Zoning Ordinance require a Zoning Certificate (permit) to be obtained for any swimming pool which has a design capacity of more than 5,000 gallons (18,925 L).

The Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department, located at 911 W. Pines Rd., Oregon, IL, accepts Zoning Certificate applications during normal business hours (8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday except legal holidays). Either the home owner or swimming pool contractor may apply for the Zoning Certificate (permit).

A plot plan or site plan (diagrams) must be submitted to confirm that the proposed swimming pool location meets the requirements of the Ogle County Amendatory Zoning Ordinance for your property. The site plan must accurately indicate the lot lines (property lines) and dimensions of the subject parcel. The site plan should be drawn to an even engineering scale (i.e. 1" = 20', 1" = 100', or any even scale that is appropriate so that the subject parcel fits the size of the paper) and must show the following:

- Existing Conditions: existing building(s) and/or structures(s), well, septic system components (i.e. septic tank, seepage field lines, or other components), easements (drainage, utility, etc.) public right-of-way (include street or road names), and any other critical information including graphic scale and north arrow.
- Proposed Improvements: Proposed swimming pool and any other structures accessory thereto (i.e. required pool enclosure(s), patio, deck, etc.). Indicate linear distances in feet from proposed swimming pool and/or accessory structure(s) to lot lines, septic system components, street or road right-of-way lines, and existing buildings and/or structures.

How much will the Zoning Certificate cost?

The application fee for a swimming pool is \$75.00 (cash or check accepted - checks payable to "Ogle County Treasurer").

How long will it take to receive my Zoning Certificate (permit)?

Please allow 2-3 business days for your Zoning Certificate to be processed. Once issued, the Zoning Certificate will be mailed or we will gladly phone you or hold for pick-up if requested.

What inspections will I need?

Typically, three inspections are conducted by the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department for a swimming pool:

- 1) Pre-construction inspection: The proposed pool location (including any patio, deck, etc.) must be clearly indicated by stakes, flags, or paint. Lot lines must be clearly indicated.
- 2) Excavation/footing inspection: Depending on the type of swimming pool and the proximity of the pool to lot lines, septic system components, etc., a second inspection may be conducted after excavation of the swimming pool area and prior to erection of the pool or placing concrete.
- 3) Final inspection. A final inspection and issuance of an Occupancy Certificate is required upon completion of the pool project and prior to use. The project must be substantially complete, including all required pool barriers.

To schedule inspections, please contact the Planning & Zoning Department at (815) 732-1190.

What are the safety requirements for swimming pools?

Any swimming pool that required a Zoning Certificate shall be provided with a barrier (meaning a fence, a wall, a building wall or a combination thereof which completely surrounds the swimming pool and obstructs access to the swimming pool) which complies with the following:

1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an aboveground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure, or mounted on top of the pool structure. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches.
2. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.
3. Solid barriers, which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.
4. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches, the horizontal members should be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members should not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width. Where there are decorative cutouts, spacing within the cutouts should not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width.
5. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches. Where there are decorative cutouts, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1-3/4 inches in width.
6. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall not exceed 1-3/4 inch square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to no more than 1-3/4 inches.
7. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be no more than 1-3/4 inches.
8. Access gates to the pool shall comply with Paragraphs 1 through 7 above, and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward, away from the pool, and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate, (a) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3 inches below the top of the gate and (b) the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than 1/2 inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.
9. Where an above-ground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps, then (a) the ladder to the pool or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access, or (b) the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets Paragraphs 1 through 8 above. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked, or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.

Barriers shall be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers.

NOTE: For diagrams and guidance regarding pool barriers, refer to booklet titled "Safety Barrier Guidelines for Home Pools" published by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (Pub. No. 362), which is available at the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department.