
BULLETIN 2003-013-BU

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(Revised)

SWIMMING POOL GUARDS

This bulletin is intended to highlight some Vancouver Building By-law (VBBL) requirements on guards around swimming pools. VBBL Sentences 9.8.8.1.(4) and (5) of Division B are Vancouver specific, however the requirements are similar to other local jurisdictions. They are included in this bulletin as references:

- 9.8.8.1.(4) Swimming pools greater than 450 mm deep and with a surface area more than 14 m², used or intended to be used for swimming, bathing, or wading, shall be enclosed within a sturdy fence not less than 1.22 m in height with no openings greater than 100 mm in their least dimension and so that no member, attachment or opening located between 100 mm and 900 mm above ground level will facilitate climbing or crawling into the pool area, except heavy gauge chain link fencing with a maximum opening size of 35 mm square may be considered acceptable for this purpose. [See Appendix A]
- 9.8.8.1.(5) The fence described in Sentence (4) shall
- a) enclose the pool itself or any portion of the premises on which the pool is situated, or
 - b) enclose only the pool area provided the pool is open to full view through the fence, and
 - c) be continuous except for points of access which shall be equipped with a self closing gate, so designed as to cause the gate to return to a locked position when not in use, and be secured by a spring lock located not less than 1070 mm above grade which can only be opened from the swimming pool side of the fence.

For swimming pools in Part 3 buildings, VBBL Sentence 3.3.1.18.(5) of Division B refers back to Article 9.8.8.1. for compliance.

Swimming pool guards apply to both in-ground or above ground pools where the depth exceeds 450 mm and greater than 14 m² in surface area. Since the hazard is the pool depth, guards are recommended for any pools or bodies of water regardless of the depth or size if young children are present. Hardware such as door alarms or pool motion sensors are available as additional safety measures.

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