



SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY ALERT

Because the outdoor swimming season is approaching, we are urging our residents to become familiar with pool safety regulations. Whether you already own a pool, are thinking of purchasing one or enjoy the pool of a neighbor or friend, observing these safety guidelines could prevent an accidental injury or death.

The PA Uniform Construction Code (UCC) regulations adopt standards published by the International Code Council pertaining to design, structural, electrical, plumbing and safety barrier aspects of swimming pools, hot tubs and spas. The Mount Pleasant Township staff enforces these regulations through the plan review, permit and inspection process. Here are some essential UCC requirements:

- **The UCC applies to any structure intended for swimming or bathing that contains water over 24" deep**, including pools that are in, on or above ground, hot tubs and spas. Portable and permanent installations are regulated.
- **Providing and maintaining an adequate barrier is essential to restrict pool access, which minimizes the chance of accidental drownings. Many drowning victims are residents or guests of the household where the pool is located, so a barrier or door alarms are also required between the home and the pool.**
- Many hot tubs and spas are sold with cover assemblies that provide the required safety barrier. Otherwise, a barrier of at least 4' high must be provided for all types of pools. Self-closing and self-latching gates must swing outward. Latch locations and fence openings are regulated to make it difficult for small children to open gates or to climb through or over safety barriers.
- The side walls of above ground pools do not meet this barrier requirement if they are less than 4' high or if pool access is provided by an adjacent elevated deck. Please remember to remove ladders or lock them in the upright position when an above ground pool is not in use.
- Code compliance for portable pools, hot tubs and spas can be as simple as assuring that the required barrier is provided, the water supply is protected from back-flow (no protection can cause contamination of drinking water) and the electrical supply is equipped with a ground fault current interrupter (protects against electrocution).
- In-ground pools and permanent above ground pools must also meet other standards for bonding of metallic parts (electrical safety) and plumbing requirements (to ensure proper sanitation by the filter system and entrapment protection at suction outlets).
- Safety glazing is required for any glass areas near a pool and there are restrictions on locations of electrical receptacles, fixtures and overhead power lines.

You can download a General Permit Application packet including a list of swimming pool requirements on the Township website (<https://mtpleasant.adamscountypa.gov/home/departments/document-center>). If you need assistance to plan the installation of a new swimming pool or would like to upgrade the safety aspects of an existing pool, please contact the codes enforcement staff at (717) 624-8049.