



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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PUBLIC POOL AND SPA FENCING AND ENCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

The Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Division requires that public pool or spa operators apply for a Swimming **Pool and Spa Minor Remodel Plan Review** whenever modifications are made to fencing or enclosures. An application is available at:

http://sceeh.com/Portals/6/Env_Health/consumer_protection/pools/poolplanckminor.pdf

The California Code of Regulations (CCR) requires the following:

ENCLOSURE OF POOL AREA

3119B.1 Enclosure

The pool shall be enclosed by one or a combination of the following: a fence; portion of a building; wall; or other approved durable enclosure. Doors, windows or gates of living units or associated private premises shall not be permitted as part of the pool enclosure. The enclosure doors and gates shall meet all of the following specifications:

1. The enclosure shall have a minimum effective perpendicular height of 5 feet as measured from the outside as depicted in **Figure 31B-4** (see below).
2. Openings, holes or gaps in the enclosure, doors and/or gates shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere. The enclosure shall be constructed over a hard and permanent material equivalent to concrete; and
3. The enclosure shall be designed and constructed so that it cannot be readily climbed by small children. Horizontal and diagonal member designs which might serve as a ladder for small children are prohibited. Horizontal members shall be spaced at least 48 inches apart. No planters or other structures that can be climbed shall be permitted within 5 feet of the outside of the pool enclosure or within a 5 foot arc as depicted in **Figure 31B-5** (see below). The area 5 feet outside of the pool enclosure shall be a common area open to the public.
4. Chain link may be used provided that the openings are not greater than 1¾ inches measured horizontally.

3119B.2 Gates

Gates and doors opening into the pool enclosure shall also meet the following specifications:

1. Gates and doors shall be equipped with self-closing and self-latching devices. The self-latching device shall keep the gate or door securely closed. Gates and doors shall open outwardly away from the pool except where otherwise prohibited by law. Hand activated door or gate opening hardware shall be located at a height no lower than 42 inches but no higher than 44 inches above the deck or walkway; and
2. Gates and doors shall be capable of being locked during times when the pool is closed. Exit doors which comply with Chapter 10, Title 24, California Code of Regulations shall be considered as meeting these requirements; and

3. The pool enclosure shall have at least one means of egress without a key for emergency purposes. Unless all gates or doors are so equipped, those gates and/or doors which will allow egress without a key shall have a sign in letters at least 4 inches high stating "EMERGENCY EXIT."
4. The enclosure shall be designed and constructed so that all persons will be required to pass through common pool enclosure gates or doors in order to gain access to the pool area. All gates and doors exiting the pool area shall open into a public area or walkway accessible by all patrons of the pool.

Figure 31B-4: Enclosure of Pool Area

Perpendicular Fencing Dimensions on Sloping Ground

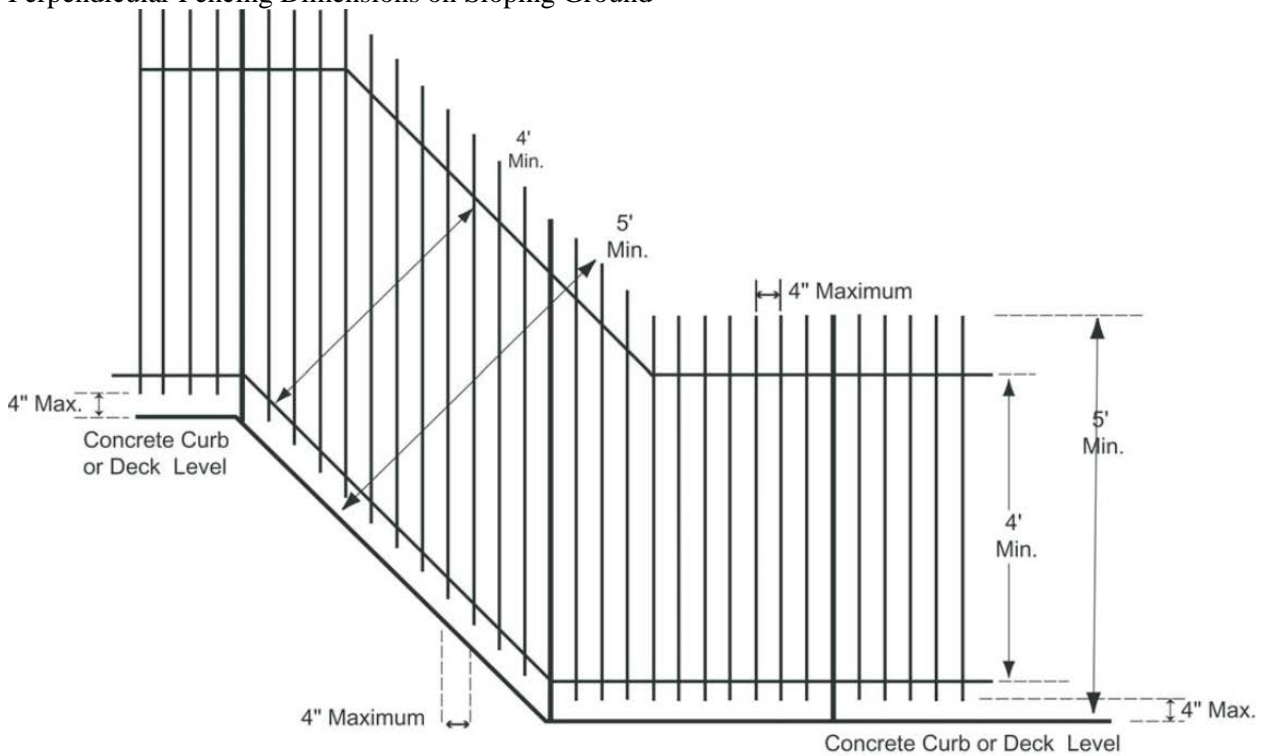


Figure 31B-5: Effective Fencing Height

