



## CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

### Building Permit Guide for: POOLS/SPA

#### Checklist for Permit Application Submittal:

- Completed Residential Building Permit Application
- Copy of the homeowner's most recent PLAT OF SURVEY indicating:
  - LOCATION and MEASUREMENTS of Pool or Spa Tub, Residence, Accessory Structures, Enclosures, Gates, Ladders, Streets and Alleys
- TWO (2) SETS OF PLANS specifying:
  - Type of pool: Above-ground or In-ground
  - SIZE: In feet of Length, Width (or Diameter), Height and Depth
  - LOCATION OF: The filter system and ground fault interrupter, the utility lines and the type, height and location of existing or proposed fences
  - Electrical information – See Electrical Requirements attachment
  - Product manufacturer's specification sheets, e.g., brochures or diagrams illustrating details of the type of pool, filter and any self-contained fence or deck

#### Pool/Spa Requirements:

1. All swimming, bathing, spas, and decorative pools (deeper than 24 inches) require a permit before being installed in the City of West Chicago
2. No electrical lines may be located:
  - Underneath the pool
  - Within 5 feet of the pool wall
  - Directly above the pool - Lines must be 10 feet away horizontally from the inside walls of the pool (See Article 680-8 for overhead clearances from diving platforms, etc.)
3. Pool owners must maintain an adequate barrier surrounding either the pool or rear yard (See attached Section B105 - Barrier Requirements.)
4. At least one means of exiting from the pool, such as a ladder or steps, must be provided. Ladders and steps shall have non-slip surfaces. Handrails must be provided, unless there are less than five steps or when the steps extend for the full width of the side or end of the pool.
5. Decks built to service pools require a separate building permit.
6. Required inspections: First - Underground Electrical and Second - Final Inspection



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#### Additional Requirements:

##### 1. Location:

- Private swimming pools are not permitted in front yards
- The walls of the pool or hot tub shall not be located less than 10 feet from any rear, side, or corner side yard property line
- Pools or hot tubs shall not be located less than 10 feet from the house or principal residence
- Pools may be located less than 10 feet from decks, as long as a 10-foot separation between the pool and house is observed

##### 2. Barriers:

- A fence is required if the pool or hot tub is 24 inches or more in depth or one of the following alternatives applies:
  - ✓ A fence at least 48 inches in height, which surrounds the pool, hot tub or the entire yard without any breaks (except for lockable gate). See attached Barrier Requirements for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs for additional requirements.
  - ✓ A hot tub with a solid lockable cover does not need to be enclosed by a fence.
  - ✓ Any pool less than 24" equipped with water recirculating system needs to be connected to a GFCI receptacle.

3. Any ladders used in conjunction with the pool shall be completely removed OR swing up and lock when not in use.
4. The pool shall be equipped with a cover when not in use for prolonged periods or during the off-season.
5. The pool shall not be located within 22.5 feet vertically and 10 feet horizontally of any overhead ComEd wiring or within five feet horizontally to underground ComEd wiring. (Contact J.U.L.I.E at 811 for utility locations) NOTE: For life safety reasons, pools must be located in strict adherence to the above-specified distances.
6. The pool filter and pumps shall be equipped with a ground fault interrupter.
7. In-ground pools must meet additional requirements. Contact the Building Department at 630/293-2200, ext. 131 for guidance.



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### Barrier Requirements:

#### Section AG102 Definitions:

**Barrier:** A fence, wall, building wall or combination thereof, which completely surrounds the swimming pool and obstructs access to the swimming pool.

**Swimming Pool:** Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches deep. This includes in-ground, aboveground and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas.

#### Section AG105 Barrier Requirements

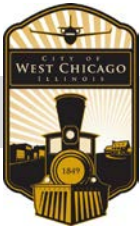
##### AG105.1 Application:

The provisions of this chapter shall control the design of barriers for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. These design controls are intended to provide protection against potential drownings and near drownings by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

##### AG105.2 Outdoor Swimming Pool:

An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground, aboveground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa shall be provided with a barrier, which shall comply with the following:

1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches above grade, and the maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be two 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 four inches.
2. Openings in the barrier shall not allow the passage of a four-inch diameter sphere.
3. Solid barriers that do not have openings, such as masonry or stone wall shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction.
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 shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1.75 inches in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75 inches.
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 the vertical members shall not exceed four inches. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1.75 inches in width.
6. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 1.25-inch square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or the bottom, which reduce the openings to not more than 1.75 inches.
7. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall not be more than 1.75 inches.
8. Access gates shall comply with the requirements of Section AG105.2, Items 1-7 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, the release mechanism and openings shall comply with the following:
  - 8.1 The release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least three inches below the top of the gate and
  - 8.2 The gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than 0.5 inches within 18 inches of the release mechanism.



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#### Barrier Requirements:

##### Section AG105 Barrier Requirements

###### AG105.2 Outdoor Swimming Pool (CONT.):

9. Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following conditions shall be met:
  - 9.1 The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F1346; or
  - 9.2 All the doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm that produces an audible warning when the door and its screen, if present, are opened. The alarm shall sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds immediately after the door is opened and be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal household activities. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm system shall be equipped with a manual means, such as a touch pad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch(es) shall be located at least 54 inches above the threshold of the door; or
  - 9.3 Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the governing body, shall be acceptable so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Item 9.1 or 9.2 described above.
10. 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 of steps then:
  - 10.1 The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access or the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier, which meets the requirements of Section AG105.2, Items 1 through 9. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a four-inch diameter sphere.



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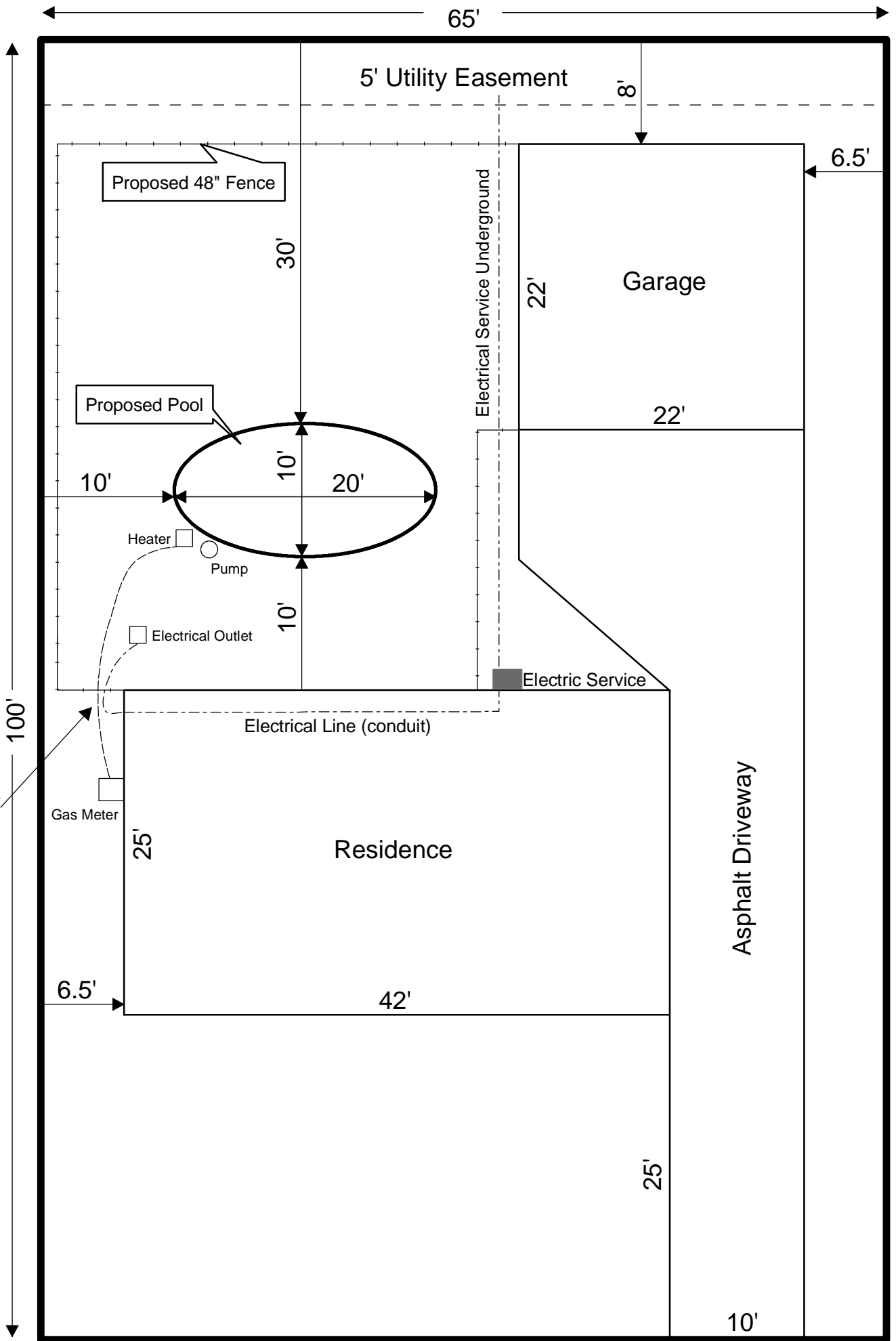
#### Electrical Requirements:

1. No receptacles are allowed within 10 feet of the inside walls of the pool, with the exception that one single, locking, GFI protected receptacle may be installed between five and 10 feet of the pool for the purpose of providing power to the pool pump motor.
2. Any receptacle located within 20 feet of the pool must be GFI protected.
3. Lighting fixtures or lighting outlets shall not be installed over the pool or area five feet wide surrounding the pool, unless they are 12 feet or more above the maximum water level.
4. Lighting fixtures and lighting outlets located within five to 10 feet of the inside walls of the pool must be GFI protected unless they are five feet or more above the maximum water level and rigidly attached to a permanent structure.
5. All switches must be located at least five feet away from the inside walls of the pool.
6. No overhead wiring shall be allowed over the pool or within 10 feet of the pool unless it is 22.5 feet or more above the maximum water level.
7. No underground wiring (except that serving the pool equipment) shall be located under the pool or within five feet of the pool.
8. Underground wiring may be rigid or IMC conduit six inches burial depth, no exceptions.
9. All metal parts of the pool, installed pool equipment, electrical conduit and fixed metal parts within five feet horizontally from the inside walls of the pool and 12 feet above the maximum water level, shall be bonded together with a copper wire of the size no less than #8 AWG.



Example  
Site Plan  
for  
Pools

\* Outside electric & gas  
lines to be buried with  
at least 8" of cover



1 inch equals 10 feet

Joliet Street