

**19. 2015 IRC Section R326 (Swimming pools, spas and hot tubs).**

Section R326 of the 2015 IRC shall be deemed to be amended to read as follows:

**SECTION R326  
SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS**

**SECTION R326.1  
GENERAL**

**R326.1 General.** The provisions of this Section shall control the design and construction of swimming pools, spas and hot tubs installed in or on the lot of a one- or two-family dwelling.

**SECTION R326.2  
DEFINITIONS**

**R326.2 Definitions.** For the purposes of these requirements, the terms used shall be defined as follows and as set forth in Chapter 2.

**ABOVE-GROUND/ON-GROUND POOL.** See "Swimming pool".

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

**BARRIER, TEMPORARY.** An approved temporary fence, permanent fence, the wall of a permanent structure, any other structure, or any combination thereof that prevents access to the swimming pool by any person not engaged in the installation or construction of the swimming pool during its installation or construction.

**HOT TUB.** See "Swimming pool".

**IN-GROUND POOL.** See "Swimming pool".

**RESIDENTIAL.** That which is situated on the premises of a detached one- or two-family dwelling or a one-family townhouse not more than three stories in height.

**SPA, NONPORTABLE.** See "Swimming pool".

**SPA, PORTABLE.** A nonpermanent structure intended for recreational bathing, in which all controls, water-heating and water-circulating equipment are an integral part of the product.

**SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE.** For the purpose of determining compliance with the pool alarm provisions of this appendix, damage of any origin sustained by a swimming pool whereby the

cost of restoring the swimming pool to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the swimming pool before the damage occurred.

**SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION.** For the purpose of determining compliance with the pool alarm provisions of this appendix, any repair, alteration, addition or improvement of a swimming pool, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the swimming pool before the improvement or repair is started. If a swimming pool has sustained substantial damage, any repairs are considered substantial modification regardless of the actual repair work performed.

**SWIMMING POOL.** Any structure, basin, chamber or tank which is intended for swimming, diving, recreational bathing or wading and which contains, is designed to contain, or is capable of containing water more than 24 inches (610 mm) deep at any point. This includes in-ground, above-ground and on-ground pools; indoor pools; hot tubs; spas; and, fixed-in-place wading pools.

**SWIMMING POOL, INDOOR.** A swimming pool which is totally contained within a structure and surrounded on all four sides by the walls of the enclosing structure.

**SWIMMING POOL, OUTDOOR.** Any swimming pool which is not an indoor pool.

### **SECTION R326.3 SWIMMING POOLS**

**R326.3.1 In-ground pools.** In-ground pools shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-5.

**R326.3.2 Above-ground and on-ground pools.** Above- ground and on-ground pools shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-4.

### **SECTION R326.4 SPAS AND HOT TUBS**

**R326.4.1 Permanently installed spas and hot tubs.** Permanently installed spas and hot tubs shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-3 as listed in Section R326.8.

**R326.4.2 Portable spas and hot tubs.** Portable spas and hot tubs shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-6.

## SECTION R326.5 BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

**R326.5.1 Application.** The provisions of this section shall control the design of barriers for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. These design controls are intended to provide protection against potential drowning and near- drowning by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

**R326.5.2 Temporary barriers.** An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground, above-ground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa shall be surrounded by a temporary barrier during installation or construction and shall remain in place until a permanent barrier in compliance with Section R326.5.3 is provided.

### **Exceptions:**

1. Above-ground or on-ground pools where the pool structure is the barrier in compliance with Section R326.5.3.
2. Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346, provided that such safety cover is in place during the period of installation or construction of such hot tub or spa. The temporary removal of a safety cover as required to facilitate the installation or construction of a hot tub or spa during periods when at least one person engaged in the installation or construction is present is permitted.

**R326.5.2.1 Height.** The top of the temporary barrier shall be at least 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool.

**R326.5.2.2 Replacement by a permanent barrier.** A temporary barrier shall be replaced by a complying permanent barrier within either of the following periods:

1. 90 days of the date of issuance of the building permit for the installation or construction of the swimming pool; or
2. 90 days of the date of commencement of the installation or construction of the swimming pool.

**R326.5.2.2.1 Replacement extension.** Subject to the approval of the code enforcement official, the time period for completion of the permanent barrier may be extended for good cause, including, but not limited to, adverse weather conditions delaying construction.

**R326.5.3 Permanent barriers.** An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground, above-ground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa shall be surrounded by a barrier which shall comply with the following:

1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches (1219 mm) 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 2 inches (51 mm) 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 above-ground 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 (102 mm).

2. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) 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 (1143 mm), the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches (44 mm) in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches (44 mm) 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 (1143 mm) or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches (44 mm) in width.
6. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a  $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch (57 mm) square unless the fence has slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to not more than  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches (44 mm).
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  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches (44 mm).
8. Gates shall comply with the requirements of Section R3265.2, Items 1 through 7, and with the following requirements:
  - 8.1. All gates shall be self-closing. In addition, if the gate is a pedestrian access gate, the gate shall open outward, away from the pool.
  - 8.2. All gates shall be self-latching, with the latch handle located within the enclosure (i.e., on the pool side of the enclosure) and at least 40 inches (1016 mm) above grade. In addition, if the latch handle is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the bottom of the gate, the latch handle shall be located at least 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate, and neither the gate nor the barrier shall have any opening greater than 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the latch handle.
  - 8.3. All gates shall be securely locked with a key, combination or other child proof lock sufficient to prevent access to the swimming pool through such gate when the swimming pool is not in use or supervised.
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 F 1346; or
  - 9.2. Doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and/or its screen, if

present, are opened. The alarm shall be listed in accordance with UL 2017. The audible alarm shall activate within 7 seconds and sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds after the door and/or its screen, if present, are 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 touch pad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch(es) shall be located at least 54 inches (1372 mm) above the threshold of the door; or

- 9.3. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, 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 or steps:
  - 10.1. The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access; or
  - 10.2. The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of Section R326.5.2, Items 1 through 9. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.

**R326.5.4 Indoor swimming pool.** Walls surrounding an indoor swimming pool shall comply with Section R326.5.2, Item 9.

**R326.5.5 Prohibited locations.** Barriers shall be located to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb them.

**R326.5.6 Barrier exceptions.** Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346 shall be exempt from the provisions of this appendix.

## **SECTION R326.6 ENTRAPMENT PROTECTION FOR SWIMMING POOL AND SPA SUCTION OUTLETS**

**R326.6.1 General.** Suction outlets shall be designed to produce circulation throughout the pool or spa. Single-outlet systems, such as automatic vacuum cleaner systems, or multiple suction outlets, whether isolated by valves or otherwise, shall be protected against user entrapment.

**R326.6.1.1 Compliance alternative.** Suction outlets may be designed and installed in accordance with ANSI/APSP-7.

**R326.6.2 Suction fittings.** Pool and spa suction outlets shall have a cover that conforms to ANSI/ASME A112.19.8M, or an 18 inch by 23 inch (457mm by 584 mm) drain grate or larger, or an approved channel drain system.

**Exception:** Surface skimmers.

**R326.6.3 Atmospheric vacuum relief system required.** Pool and spa single- or multiple-outlet circulation systems shall be equipped with atmospheric vacuum relief should grate covers located therein become missing or broken. This vacuum relief system shall include at least one approved or engineered method of the type specified herein, as follows:

1. Safety vacuum release system conforming to ASME A112.19.17; or
2. An approved gravity drainage system.

**R326.6.4 Dual drain separation.** Single or multiple pump circulation systems have a minimum of two suction outlets of the approved type. A minimum horizontal or vertical distance of 3 feet (914 mm) shall separate the outlets. These suction outlets shall be piped so that water is drawn through them simultaneously through a vacuum-relief-protected line to the pump or pumps.

**R326.6.5 Pool cleaner fittings.** Where provided, vacuum or pressure cleaner fitting(s) shall be located in an accessible position(s) at least 6 inches (152 mm) and not more than 12 inches (305 mm) below the minimum operational water level or as an attachment to the skimmer(s).

## **SECTION R326.7 SWIMMING POOL AND SPA ALARMS**

**R326.7.1 Applicability.** A swimming pool or spa installed, constructed or substantially modified after December 14, 2006, shall be equipped with an approved pool alarm.

**Exceptions:**

1. A hot tub or spa equipped with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F1346.
2. A swimming pool (other than a hot tub or spa) equipped with an automatic power safety cover which complies with ASTM F1346.

Pool alarms shall comply with ASTM F2208, and shall be installed, used and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and this section.

**R326.7.2 Multiple alarms.** A pool alarm must be capable of detecting entry into the water at any point on the surface of the swimming pool. If necessary to provide detection capability at every point on the surface of the swimming pool, more than one pool alarm shall be provided.

**R326.7.3 Alarm activation.** Pool alarms shall activate upon detecting entry into the water and shall sound poolside and inside the dwelling.

**R326.7.4 Prohibited alarms.** The use of personal immersion alarms shall not be construed as compliance with this section.

**SECTION R326.8  
STANDARDS**

**R326.8.1 General.** The following table lists the standards that are referenced in Section R326. The standards are listed by the promulgating agency of the standard, the standard identification, the effective date and title, and the section(s) of Section R326 that reference the standard. The application of the reference standards shall be as specified in Section 102.5.

<b>Standard number-</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Code Section where referenced</b>
<b>ANSI</b>	<b>American National Standards Institute 11 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036</b>	
ANSI/APSP 7-13	Standard for Suction Entrapment Avoidance in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs, and Catch Basins	R326.6.1
ANSI/NSPI-3-99	Standard for Permanently Installed Residential Spas	R326.4.1
ANSI/NSPI-4-99	Standard for Above-ground/On-ground Residential Swimming Pools	R326.3.2
ANSI/NSPI-5-03	Standard for Residential In-ground Swimming Pools	R326.3.1
ANSI/NSPI-6-99	Standard for Residential Portable Spas	R326.4.2
ANSI/ASME A112.19.8M-1987 (R1996)	Suction Fittings for Use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs and Whirlpool Bathing Appliances	R326.6.2
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<b>APSP</b>	<b>Association of Pool and Spa Professionals 2111 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 500, Alexandria, VA 22314-4695</b>	
ANSI/APSP 7-13	Standard for Suction Entrapment Avoidance in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs, and Catch Basins	R326.6.1
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<b>ASME</b>	<b>American Society of Mechanical Engineers Three Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5990</b>	
ANSI/ASME A112.19.8 2007	Suction Fittings for Use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs and Whirlpool Bathing Appliances	R326.6.2
ASME A112.19.17-2002	Manufacturers Safety Vacuum Release Systems (SVRS) for Residential and Commercial Swimming Pool, Spa, Hot Tub and Wading Pool	R326.6.3
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<b>ASTM</b>	<b>ASTM International</b>	

	<b>100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428</b>	
ASTM F 1346-91 (1996)	Performance Specification for Safety Covers and Labeling Requirements for All Covers for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs	R326.5.2, R326.5.3, R326.5.6, R326.7.1
ASTM F2208-2008	Standard Specification for Pool Alarms	AG107.1
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<b>NSPI*</b>	<b>National Spa and Pool Institute 2111 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314</b>	
ANSI/NSPI-3-99	Standard for Permanently Installed Residential Spas	R326.4.1
ANSI/NSPI-4-99	Standard for Above-ground/On-ground Residential Swimming Pools	R326.3.2
ANSI/NSPI-5-03	Standard for Residential In-ground Swimming Pools	R326.3.1
ANSI/NSPI-6-99	Standard for Residential Portable Spas	R326.4.2
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<b>UL</b>	<b>Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062-2096</b>	
UL2017-2000	Standard for General-purpose Signaling Devices and Systems with Revisions through June 2004	R326.5.3
* The NSPI documents are available through APSP.		

	<b>100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428</b>	
ASTM F 1346-91 (1996)	Performance Specification for Safety Covers and Labeling Requirements for All Covers for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs	R326.5.2, R326.5.3, R326.5.6, R326.7.1
ASTM F2208-2008	Standard Specification for Pool Alarms	AG107.1
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<b>NSPI*</b>	<b>National Spa and Pool Institute 2111 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314</b>	
ANSI/NSPI-3-99	Standard for Permanently Installed Residential Spas	R326.4.1
ANSI/NSPI-4-99	Standard for Above-ground/On-ground Residential Swimming Pools	R326.3.2
ANSI/NSPI-5-03	Standard for Residential In-ground Swimming Pools	R326.3.1
ANSI/NSPI-6-99	Standard for Residential Portable Spas	R326.4.2
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<b>UL</b>	<b>Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062-2096</b>	
UL2017-2000	Standard for General-purpose Signaling Devices and Systems with Revisions through June 2004	R326.5.3

\* The NSPI documents are available through APSP.

**20. 2015 IRC Sections R404.2.1 (Identification), R502.1.1 (Sawn lumber), R602.2.1 (Sawn lumber) and R802.1.1 (Sawn lumber).**

Sections R404.2.1, R502.1.1, R602.2.1 and R802.1.1 of the 2015 IRC shall be deemed to be amended by the addition of an exception after Sections R404.2.1, R502.1.1, R602.2.1 and R802.1.1 to read as follows:

**Exception:** Dimension lumber which is neither identified by a grade mark nor issued a certificate of inspection by a lumber grading or inspection agency may be used for load-bearing purposes under the following conditions when authorized by the authority having jurisdiction:

1. The producing mill shall sell or provide the lumber directly to the ultimate consumer or the consumer's contract builder for use in an approved structure.
2. The producing mill shall certify in writing to the consumer or contract builder on a