

POOL SAFETY GUIDELINES

Fencing around swimming pools should be at least 48 inches in height. Any horizontal structures on the outside of the fence should be more than 45 inches apart to prevent a child from using them to climb across the fence. The space between the vertical structures should not exceed 4 inches to prevent a young child's body from passing through an opening. There should be no more than 4 inches of space between the surface and the bottom of the fence. In essence, the fencing should be so structured that a young child would be prevented from entering the pool. Safety pool covers, if used instead of fencing, must meet ASTM (American Society of Testing Materials) standards, and the pool cover should be so labeled. Standards include specific performance tests as to weight support, entry or entrapment, surface drainage, and the like. Swimming pool supply vendors are familiar with ASTM.

POOL FENCING

If the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is more than 45 inches, the horizontal members can be on the side of the fence facing away from the pool. The spacing between vertical members should not exceed four (4) inches. This size is based on the head breadth and chest depth of a young child, and is intended to prevent a child from passing through an opening. Again, if there are any decorative cutouts in the fence, the space within the cutouts should not exceed 1 ¾ inches. (See Figure 1).

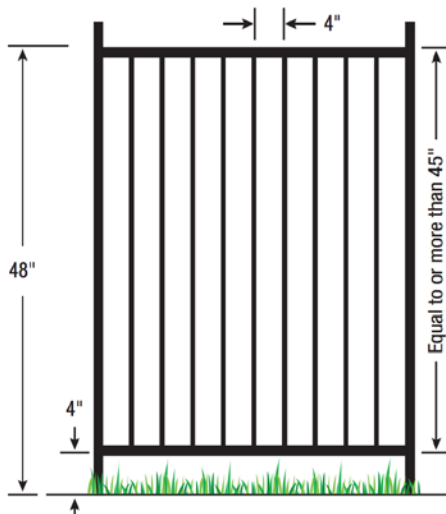


Figure 1

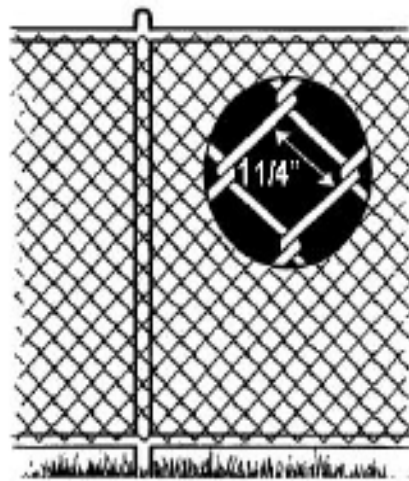


Figure 2

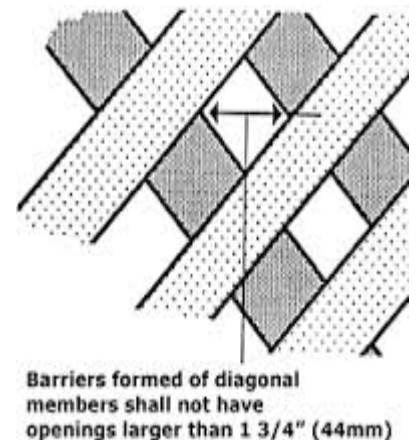


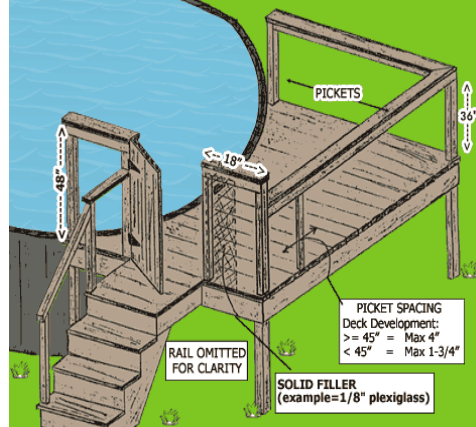
Figure 3

For a chain link fence, the mesh size should not exceed 1 ¾ inches square unless slats, fastened at the top or bottom of the fence, are used to reduce mesh openings to no more than 1 ¾ inches.

(See Figures 2 & 3)

ABOVE GROUND POOLS

Above ground pools should have barriers. The pool structure itself serves as a barrier or a barrier is mounted on the top of the pool structure. Then there are two possible ways to prevent young children from climbing up into an above ground pool. The steps or ladder can be designed to be secured, locked, or removed to prevent access, or the steps or ladder can be surrounded by a barrier such as those in the examples below.



POOL FENCING AND SAFETY COVER ILLUSTRATIONS FOR IN-GROUND POOLS

