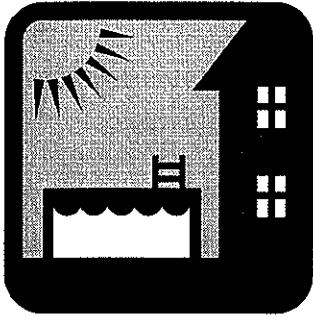


Town of Carroll

Swimming Pool Safety & Permit Requirements



No one expects a tragedy to strike them, however, each year nearly 300 children under the age of 5, drown in swimming pools nationwide according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. In addition, over 2,000 children in that age group are treated annually in hospital emergency rooms for pool submersion injuries – mostly in residential, family-owned swimming pools. An increasing number of deaths are also occurring in storable inflatable pools commonly purchased at local department stores. These types of pools are relatively inexpensive and may cost as little as \$200.

They often have slanted or flexible sides, which make it easier for children to climb into the pool even without a ladder present. These pools are often purchased by consumers without considering barriers, such as fencing, necessary to protect young children.

The best safeguard for the prevention of accidental drowning or injuries, is to be certain swimming pool installations comply with the Town of Carroll Zoning Code as well as New York State Building Code and Property Maintenance Code regulations. When considering the purchase and installation of a swimming pool, all homeowners, landlords or tenants, need to be aware that:

A building permit is required for any swimming pool capable of holding a depth of more than 24 inches of water.

This includes storable inflatable pools and any hot tub or spa. If the pool sidewall is less than 48 inches high, a minimum four-foot high barrier or fence with a self-closing, self-latching gate is required. If the house forms a side of this barrier, alarms on all doors leading to the pool area are required. Any existing pool is also required to comply with these barrier requirements. All electrical connections must also be installed to meet the National Electric Code, and they must be inspected by an approved electrical inspector. In addition to these electrical and barrier requirements, any newly installed pool must be equipped with a pool alarm that is capable of detecting whenever a child enters the pool by sounding an audible alarm.

If you are planning to have a swimming pool installed on your property or residence this summer, make certain you obtain a building permit before you begin. Depending on the location, some swimming pools may require a Special Use Permit to be issued by the Zoning Board of Appeals. Because this process may take several weeks, make sure you leave yourself plenty of time to obtain these permits before the pool is installed. If you have an existing permanent or portable swimming pool and do not have a valid building permit, you will need to obtain a permit before you will be permitted to use your pool this summer. In addition to these swimming pool requirements, a building permit must also be obtained for the installation of any hot tub or spa.

Building permit application packets and informational brochures may be obtained at the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours. If you have any questions regarding swimming pool safety or the permit process, contact Alan Gustafson, Code Enforcement Officer at 450-3032.