

With summer temperatures on the rise, many people in Mason City are getting ready for summer fun in the pool.

However, your swimming pool can also pose a risk to neighborhood children. The U.S. Consumer



Product Safety Commission reports that about 250 children

under the age of 5 drown each year in swimming pools. Most of these swimming pools are residential.

The Development Services Department and Police Department want to remind pool owners, parents and caregivers of the local safety regulations governing residential swimming pools, both in-ground and above ground.



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# SWIMMING POOLS

Your guide to Mason City's  
Swimming Pool Safety  
Regulations



Development Services  
Department  
641-421-3620

The City of Mason City has adopted regulations for the placement and protection of swimming pools. Any pool not completely enclosed in a building, which is capable of holding 24 inches of water at any point is considered a swimming pool. This includes but is not limited to in-ground and above ground swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas. All swimming pools, as defined above, are subject to the following location and safety requirements:

There are also some other common sense precautions you can take to reduce the risk of an accident:

- A building & zoning permit is required **before** the pool is installed or filled.
- All swimming pools must be located in the back yard. They cannot be installed in the side or front yard.
- The pool must be surrounded by a barrier that is at least 48 inches tall.
- Any opening in the wall or fence must be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching gate.
- Suction outlets shall be designed and installed to reduce the potential for drowning of young children.
- The pump and filter installation must be connected to an outlet equipped with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).



- No child, no matter how proficient a swimmer, should be left unattended.
- The adult left in charge of watching the children in or around a swimming pool should be a proficient swimmer and know CPR.
- Install an alarm that produces an audible sound on all doors leading from the house to the pool area.
- If your pool is in-ground or has rigid sides, install a power safety cover.
- Install a pool alarm that alerts you to movement in the pool.
- If a child is missing, check the pool first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.

For complete code information about swimming pools or to obtain the required permits, contact the Building Inspections at 641-421-3620.