

Pool Fence & Barrier Compliance Guide

State-by-state pool barrier requirements, gate hardware standards, and self-inspection checklist — updated 2025.

Pool Barrier Requirements by State — Key Facts

State	Min. Height	Gate	House Wall Permitted?	Additional Notes
Alabama	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	IRC Section R326
Arizona	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	Pool barrier ordinance strictly enforced in Phoenix/Scottsdale
California	60 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with alarms	AB 3305 requires 5-ft barrier; among strictest in U.S.
Colorado	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	IRC adopted statewide
Florida	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, door alarms req.	FS 515 requires at least one of: fence, cover, alarm, or door alarms
Georgia	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	IRC statewide adoption
Illinois	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	Local amendments common in Chicago suburbs
Indiana	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	IRC adopted; township enforcement
Michigan	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	IRC adopted statewide
Minnesota	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	IRC adopted statewide
Missouri	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	IRC adopted; local enforcement varies
Nevada	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	Clark County (Las Vegas) strictly enforced
New Jersey	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	UCC statewide — township permits
New York	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	Local laws in Nassau/Suffolk may be stricter
North Carolina	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	IRC adopted statewide + \$0.50/sqft state surcharge
Ohio	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	Ohio Building Code (OBC) adoption
Pennsylvania	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	PAUCC statewide — township-level enforcement
South Carolina	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	IRC adopted statewide
Tennessee	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	IRC adopted statewide
Texas	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	Austin requires 60 in minimum
Virginia	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	USBC statewide adoption
Washington	48 in	Self-close / self-latch	Yes, with door alarms	IRC with state amendments

Gate Hardware Requirements — What Inspectors Check

Gate is self-closing

Hinges or closer mechanism causes gate to close completely without assistance. Test: open gate fully, release — it must swing shut and latch.

■ Gate is self-latching	Latch engages automatically when gate closes. Must not require manual engagement. Spring-loaded latches are acceptable.
■ Latch height \geq 54 inches from ground	Gate latch must be at least 54 inches above grade on the POOL SIDE, OR on the interior of the fence at any height.
■ Gate opens away from pool	Gate must swing outward (away from pool), not inward. This prevents a child from pushing the gate open toward water.
■ No openings > 4 inches	No gap, picket spacing, or decorative opening may allow a 4-inch sphere to pass through the barrier.
■ No climbable footholds within 36 inches	No horizontal rails, decorative elements, or structures within 36 inches of the barrier exterior that a child could use to climb.

CALIFORNIA NOTE: California requires a 60-inch (5-foot) minimum barrier — higher than the 48-inch IRC standard used in most other states. California also requires a combination of protections: a compliant barrier PLUS at least one additional layer of protection (pool alarm, door alarms, or approved pool cover). AB 3305 (effective 2018) applies to all new residential pools.