

When can I place water in the pool?

No liner and/or water is to be placed in a pool until all pool fencing and gates have been inspected and approved by a bylaw enforcement officer. It is the property owner's responsibility to ensure the bylaw enforcement officer has inspected and approved all fencing and gates prior to the placement of water in the pool. To place water in the pool prior to final inspection leaves the owner open to liability and may result in a fine.

Are there any restrictions about where swimming pool filters can be located?

Yes, a swimming pool filter must be setback 60 cm (1.97 ft.) from a rear and side property line. Swimming pool equipment is not permitted in a front yard.

Contact Us

Planning and Building Department
Building Section

Phone: 905-335-7731

Website: www.burlington.ca/building

Email: building@burlington.ca

A Resident's Guide to Pools

Are you planning to install an outdoor swimming pool?

A swimming pool is defined as any privately owned outdoor tank or body of water used, or intended to be used, and maintained for swimming or display purposes and capable of holding water in excess of 600 mm (1.97 ft.). Existing natural bodies of water or streams are excluded. It does include a hydro-massage pool.

A temporary pool

A temporary pool is an inflatable pool or other pool, designed to be removed on a seasonal or more frequent basis and is capable of holding water excess of 600 mm (1.97 ft.).

Is a permit required?

A permit is required for all swimming pools. All swimming pools, including temporary pools, must be enclosed by fencing and gates in accordance with the city's pool fencing bylaw, [Bylaw, 74-2005].

Is the contractor responsible for a pool permit?

The pool contractor may apply for the pool permit on your behalf, but ultimately it is the property owner's responsibility to get a pool permit.

How do I apply for a pool permit?

To obtain a pool permit, complete and submit a pool permit application to the planning and building department. Be sure to include two copies of a survey and two sets of detailed drawings showing the

proposed pool location with setback dimensions from all property lines. Fencing details and gate locations are required on the drawings.

There is a permit fee applicable based on the type of pool (i.e. above-ground, on-ground and temporary) payable at the time of application.

Note:

1. An approved zoning certificate from the zoning section of the planning and building department is required.
 2. There is a fee and review period for a zoning certificate. Questions regarding zoning can be directed to the city's zoning section of the planning and building department at 905-335-7600, ext. 7642.
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Do you have a private sewage disposal system (septic system) on your property?

If your property contains a private sewage disposal system (active or dormant) the location of the system must be shown on the plot plan. It is critical that during construction the septic bed is not disturbed.

Are there restrictions on where you can locate a swimming pool?

Yes, on lots containing a detached house, a duplex or one dwelling unit of a semi-detached, triplex, fourplex or street townhouse the following regulations apply:

- On lots less than 12 m (39.37 ft.) wide, swimming pools are permitted in a rear yard only.
- On lots 12 m (39.37 ft.) wide or greater, swimming pools are not permitted in a required front or street side yard.

- In-ground pools shall be set back 1.5 m (4.92 ft.) from a property line or street line, measured from the inside wall of the pool.
 - On-ground, above-ground and temporary pools shall be set back from a property line or street line 1.5 m (4.92 ft.). Plus, 30 cm (.98 ft.) for each 30 cm (.98 ft.) that the top of the pool wall is above the grade elevation at the property line, measured from the inside wall of the pool.
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Other restrictions

If your property is located within:

- The Niagara Escarpment Planning Area
- Parkway Belt West Planning Area
- Adjacent to a watercourse or pipeline corridor
- Ministry of Transportation Lands
- Conservation Halton Screening Area

Approval from the appropriate agency may be required prior to issuance of a pool permit.

What kind of fencing is required?

A variety of fencing is permitted including, chain link, wrought iron and wood board fencing, subject to complying with the pool fencing by-law regulations. You should obtain a copy of the pool fencing by-law and read it carefully to ensure your fencing and gates comply with all by-law requirements. A complimentary copy of the pool fencing by-law can be obtained from the planning and building department, building division.

If you have any questions regarding your existing or proposed pool fencing, please contact the by-law enforcement officer for your area. Call 905-335-7731 for a pre-application pool fencing consultation. There is no fee charged for this service.