



Gate & Door Safety

For Your
Swimming
Pool or Spa

Maricopa County Water & Waste Management Division

Website: esd.maricopa.gov

E-Mail: envpoolinspection@maricopa.gov

The Importance of Barrier Safety

According to the CDC, having a 4-sided barrier with a gate around a pool reduces the risk of drowning by 83%.

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death of toddlers ages 1-4, which means protecting all swimmers is our priority. Having pool gates provide protection from drownings and other pool-related injuries, but a gate does not serve its purpose if it is not maintained properly.

Health Code Requirements

Gates and doors to pool areas must be inspected as often as the pool is maintained, which should be daily. Maricopa County Environmental Health Code states that all gates and doors leading to a pool area must swing away from the enclosure and have a positive self-latching latch at a minimum height of 54 inches. The gate must also be regularly maintained to be self-closing and self-latching from all open positions with no obstruction. A great rule of thumb is to inspect the gate to self-close and latch from the fully open, half open, and 4-inch open positions.

Door-Swing Requirement

The Maricopa County Environmental Health Code requires all doors and gates that are part of a bathing place enclosure to swing outward away from the pool or spa. There is a retroactive provision in place that requires all existing pools/spas to meet current code by 1/1/2014. If you have a door that swings into the enclosure, please visit the following link: [Correcting a Door Swing](#). This document provides your options for bringing doors into compliance. Before any modifications are made, it is recommended to first contact your local building department to ensure there will be no building code violations. Please note that regardless of the direction that the doors swing they must be self-closing and self-latching from all positions at all times.

FAQ

My pool gate is not compliant with the Health Code. How do I fix it?

For simple repairs, most handy-persons can do the work. For major adjustments, replacements or changes, a fence company/licensed contractor familiar with the Environmental Health Code is ideal. All non-compliant gates should be padlocked closed until they are in full repair.

Why must they self-close & latch from 4 inches specifically?

4 inches is the average size of an infant's head; to prevent unauthorized entry to the area by children, the gates must be compliant from the 4-inch open position.