

## **Residential Swimming Pools**

Summer is the time of year that lends itself to enjoying the outdoors. Whether you enjoy active or passive recreation, summer weather is conducive to being outdoors.

Among all the recreational pastimes, summer is the season when most of us take some time to enjoy swimming. Some of us prefer swimming at the beach, others at a local spring or lake, and still others relish a swimming pool.

Those fortunate to have their own swimming pool know the pleasure of owning a pool also requires a commitment. Keeping the pool water circulating and maintaining its quality is a continuous labor of love.

Fortunately most pool owners are aware of lawful safety requirements associated with having a swimming pool. The City of Tallahassee administers a swimming pool ordinance for the benefit of residential swimming pool owners. The primary benefit of the ordinance is to protect residential swimming pool owners and their neighbors. Some of the beneficial aspects of this ordinance include the following.

- Outdoor swimming pools located within any residential area are to be completely surrounded by a fence or wall not less than four feet in height.
- All fences and all gates or doors opening through any enclosures of a swimming pool shall be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device for keeping the gate or door securely closed at all times when not in use.
- No openings, holes or gaps are permissible in a fence or wall that would allow entry by a small child.
- All swimming pools are to be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
- Any swimming pool is considered abandoned if it has been drained or is not maintained for a period of 30 days. Abandoned pools are to be filled with appropriate material and stabilized.

A swimming pool provides pleasure to its owners, but with associated responsibilities. If you have questions or would like additional information about the lawful safety requirements associated with residential swimming pools, please contact the City's Code Enforcement Division with the Economic and Community Development Department at **891-6500**. Ask to speak with a Customer Service Aide for information about the City's swimming pool ordinance.