

Government Agencies

Florida Building Commission:
850-487-1824

www.floridabuilding.org

Florida Department of Health:
850-245-4444

www.doh.state.fl.us

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:
301-504-7923
www.cpsc.gov

www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/pool.pdf

www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/363.pdf

Centers for Disease Control—National Center for In-
jury Prevention and Control:
404-639-3311

www.cdc.gov/ncipc/

Centers for Disease Control

(for information on recreational water illnesses):
404-639-3311

www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Sun Wise:
202-272-0167

www.epa.gov/sunwise

Florida Statutes: 1-850-488-4371

www.leg.state.fl.us

Florida Construction Industry Licensing Board:
850-487-1395

www.myflorida.com/dbpr

Florida Department of Business and Professional
Regulation, Office of Unlicensed Activity:
850-487-1395

www.myflorida.com/dbpr

Florida Department of Financial Services,
Division of Workers' Compensation:
850-413-1601

www.fldfs.com/WC

Florida Department of Financial Services,
Division of Consumer Services:
800-342-2762

www.fldfs.com/consumers

Florida Department of State,
Division of Corporations:
800-755-5111

www.sunbiz.org

Other Resources:

Florida Swimming Pool Association:
www.fpsaonline.org

Association of Pool and Spa Profes-
sionals: www.theapsp.org/Home

National Lightning Safety Institute:
www.lightningsafety.com

Weather Channel:
www.weather.com

Oklahoma State University on sun
safety:
www.pp.okstate.edu/ehs/links/uv.htm

**Don't know where to go for an
answer to a specific question?**
Contact: Building A Safer Florida, Inc.
toll-free 1-866-881-3221 or
www.buildingasaferflorida.com

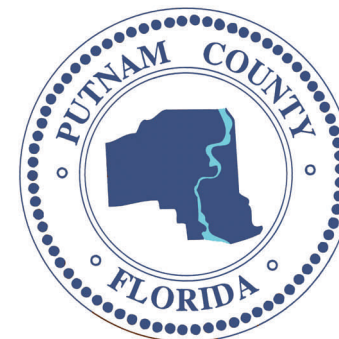
*Putnam County
Planning & Development Services*

515 Reid Street
PO BOX 1486
Palatka, FL 32178

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Fax: 386-329-1213

*Putnam County
Planning & Development Services*

Residential Swimming Pool Safety¹



This pamphlet has been developed from
materials provided by the
Florida Department of
Community Affairs (DCA).
For more information about the DCA,
please visit:
www.dca.state.fl.us/

The first and best way to prevent drowning is constant adult supervision for children, medically-frail elderly, and any person—*there are no exceptions to this rule*. Drowning or near-drowning injuries take only a few minutes to happen and occur in oceans, lakes, quarries, rivers, swimming pools, hot tubs, bathtubs, toilets, retention ponds, and even buckets. Drowning is a leading cause of accidental death especially for children under age five. Drowning is a significant cause of death for medically-frail elderly people. For every child who drowns, three receive emergency medical care and such injuries too often cause brain damage ranging from long-term disabilities (memory problems, learning disabilities, and more) to permanent vegetative state.

Access to Swimming Pool, Spa, or Hot Tub

As a back-up to constant adult supervision, Florida law requires the use of one or more safety features for any residential swimming pool (any structure for recreational use that contains water over 24 inches deep), spa, and hot tub constructed in Florida. Under the Florida Building Code and chapter 515 of the Florida Statutes, a new residential pool must have one of the following safety features (please see

424.2.17 of the Florida Building Code):

- Approved barrier isolating the pool from the home
- Approved safety pool cover
- Exit alarm with specified volume equipped on all doors and windows with direct access to the pool
- Self-closing, self-latching device on all doors (include gates) with direct access to the pool.

Please also see Chapter 64E-21, Florida Administrative Code, relating to residential swimming pools for more information on Florida requirements relating to pool construction.

Cautions

- Failure to equip a new residential swimming pool with at least one safety feature as required under chapter 515, Florida Statutes, is a *criminal* violation of law that can and will apply to the homeowner any contractor.
- At the time of signing a contract for construction of a new swimming pool or spa, your contractor (pool or building) is required to provide you, the customer, with a copy of chapter 515, Florida Statutes, and the approved drowning prevention publication *Safety Barrier Guidelines for Home Pools*.

- Failure to hire a contractor properly licensed and qualified to build a pool or spa may invalidate your homeowner's insurance coverage and put you and your pool users at great safety risk. It may also subject you to criminal penalties.
- It is your responsibility to make sure that all material suppliers and subcontractors (if any) are paid. If you pay your contractor and he or she does not pay others, you may legally be required to pay twice (this is the Florida Construction Lien Law, part I, chapter 713, Florida Statutes).
- Failure of your contractor to obtain a permit (where required) and comply with work and safety requirements may stop work and cost you more money to complete the work.
- If your contractor suggests it will be best if you obtain the permit, **BEWARE: THIS IS NEVER A GOOD IDEA.**

*DISCLAIMER – This piece is intended to give the reader only general factual information current at the time of publication. This piece is **not** a substitute for professional advice and should not be used for guidance or decisions related to a specific design or construction project. This piece is not intended to reflect the opinion of any of the entities, agencies or organizations identified in the materials and, if any opinions appear, are those of the individual author and should not be relied upon in any event. Applicable to 2004 Florida Building Code.*