

New Swimming Pool Law Requirements for Home Owners

Anti-Entrapment Safety Features

From Building Division of the Community Development Department:

On January 1, 2007, a new law went into effect in California regarding the safety and security of swimming pools and spas located in private homes, including those in the City of Woodland. The Swimming Pool Safety Act requires that whenever a building permit is issued for construction or remodel of a swimming pool or spa it shall be equipped with at least one of seven drowning prevention safety features. See Swimming Pool Safety Regulations.

Also within the new law is the requirement to add anti-entrapment safety devices to a swimming pool, spa, or toddler pool. As a result of the new requirements, the City of Woodland is adding an anti-entrapment inspection requirement to all new swimming pools or spa and for the remodel of swimming pools or spas. Prior to approving the final inspection a City inspector must verify that an anti-entrapment device is installed in the existing pool, spa, or toddler pool or for a new swimming pool or spa within the property boundaries for the address shown on the permit.

The above law does not apply to Hot Tubs or spas with locking safety covers that comply with the ASTM Emergency Performance Specifications (ASTM_ES 13-89).

For more information on this new requirement, contact the City of Woodland Building Division at (530) 661-5820. See below for excerpts from the State Law.

Excerpt from California Health and Safety Code Section 115928

"115928 Whenever a building permit is issued for the construction of a new swimming pool or spa, the pool or spa shall meet all of the following requirements:

(a) (1) The suction outlet of the pool or spa for which the permit is issued shall be equipped to provide circulation throughout the pool or spa as prescribed in paragraph (2).

(2) The swimming pool or spa shall have at least two circulation drains per pump that shall be hydraulically balanced and symmetrically plumbed through one or more "T" fittings, and that are separated by a distance of at least three feet in any dimension between the drains.

(b) Suction outlets that are less than 12 inches across shall be covered with antientrapment grates, as specified in the ASME/ANSI Standard A 112.19.8, that cannot be removed except with the use of tools. Slots or openings in the grates or similar protective devices shall be of a shape, area, and arrangement that would prevent physical entrapment and would not pose any suction hazard to bathers.

(c) Any backup **safety** system that an owner of a new swimming pool or spa may choose to install in addition to the requirements set forth in subdivisions (a) and (b) shall meet the standards as published in the document, "Guidelines for Entrapment Hazards: Making Pools and Spas Safer," Publication Number 363, March 2005, United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.

To view the entire code, please visit the web site below and check the Health and Safety Code box and enter 15928 in the search box:

[State Law Information](#)