

## Keeping Your Swimming Pool Secure and Safe

Local and State regulations apply to both in-ground and above-ground bodies of water. The design, location, type of water feature and proposed safety barriers determine whether your installation complies with the regulations.



Homeowners are responsible for compliance with pool security regulations. Even if a contractor does the installation and represents that no permit is required, the homeowner bears responsibility. (Failure to observe these regulations is a criminal offense and may adversely affect your civil liability in the event of an accident.)

**Pool safety is your responsibility! Any questions regarding pool safety regulations should be directed to the Town's Department of Planning and Development at (516) 624-6200.**

## Safe Ways to Secure Your Pool

Access to any man-made body of water, including a swimming pool or pond, should have appropriate physical barriers, whether or not a permit is required.

Generally, any pool must be protected by a fence or other barrier, one that is resistant to being climbed. The rear of your house may form part of the barrier, provided all means of egress comply with regulations for pool entrances or gates. Sliding doors leading to a pool should be self-closing and self-locking and have an audible alarm.

Above-ground pool ladders should be properly locked or removed and stored when not in use.

Town Supervisor  
**JOSEPH SALADINO**



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**POOL SAFETY INFORMATION**

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**JOSEPH SALADINO**  
Town Supervisor

[www.OysterBayTown.com](http://www.OysterBayTown.com)



## A Message From Town Supervisor **JOSEPH SALADINO**

Dear Residents,

Owning a pool can without a doubt be fun and exciting. However, with that fun comes a great deal of responsibility to both the pool owner and those who utilize the pool.

There are a myriad of State and local regulations designed to help protect anybody who enjoys using a swimming pool. Every person's pool setup is different, therefore only the Department of Planning and Development can fully determine whether your pool is compliant. This brochure is designed to shed some light on what responsibilities a homeowner has when it comes to installing and maintaining a swimming pool.

While the information in this brochure is intended to provide some guidelines, it does not hold true in all circumstances. Please contact the Town's Department of Planning and Development at (516) 624-6200 for full information for your specific scenario.

Most importantly, please use common sense when in and around a swimming pool. Watch children at all times and discourage running around the pool area. With the right amount of good judgement and safety regulations, a swimming pool can be both valuable and fun, something for the whole family to enjoy.

Very truly yours,

**Joseph Saladino**  
Town Supervisor

## Does Your Swimming Pool Comply With Town Regulations?

- Any pool (in-ground or above ground) requires a permit.
- A pool must be accompanied by adequate fencing. Fencing must completely enclose the outer perimeter of any pool or the perimeter of a yard in which the pool is located. Fences must be unclimbable and at least four feet high (no more than six feet). All gates must be self-closing and self-latching.
- Entrances or gates into the pool area must open outward (away from the pool).
- If a release latch is less than 54" from the bottom of the gate, it must be located on the poolside of the gate and be at least 3" below the top of the gate.
- Drainage from any swimming pool is not permitted to flow onto adjacent properties or roadways; it must flow directly into a special dedicated system located on your property.
- Any lights illuminating swimming pools must be situated so they do not shine directly onto neighboring streets and properties. The filter pump and electrical switch, as well as other mechanical equipment, must be in a vented enclosure or screened with dense evergreen planting.
- All electrical work must be performed by Town of Oyster Bay licensed electricians.
- Pool alarms and door alarms are required to be installed.

*These are just some of the requirements pool owners must meet. They deal with safety issues and general zoning and permitting requirements. If you are contemplating installing a new pool, pond or hot tub, or if you want to determine whether an existing one is compliant with Town Code and New York State code, contact the Town of Oyster Bay's Department of Planning and Development at (516) 624-6200.*

## Some General Safety Guidelines for Pools

**Never leave children unattended.**

**Never let children use a pool, including kiddie pools, without a supervising adult.**

**When not in use, kiddie pools should be emptied and safely stored.**

**Lock all gates and entrances when the pool is not being used.**

**Discourage running. The area surrounding a swimming pool can quickly become wet and slippery.**

**Keep rescue equipment and a telephone close to the pool.**

**Do not substitute floatation devices for adult supervision.**

**Don't drink if you are planning to swim. Alcohol slows reaction time and affects balance and judgement.**

**Remember that teaching a child to swim does not mean a child is safe in the water.**

**Even an "expert" swimmer can have an accident that may lead to drowning.**

**Parents may want to learn CPR in the event of an emergency.**

**Make sure ladders are properly stored away after use.**

**USE COMMON SENSE  
and HAVE FUN!**