

Unincorporated Polk County, Iowa

Swimming Pool Regulations

Definition from Polk County Zoning Ordinance:

Swimming Pool. A “swimming pool” is an outdoor artificial basin of water of either temporary or permanent construction, whether above or below ground, capable of containing water of a depth of eighteen inches or more, and which is not emptied within a 24 hour period. Swimming pools exclude man-made lakes, or ponds created through the collection of storm water or drainage runoff, and hot tubs equipped with a latching cover.

Regulations from Polk County Zoning Ordinance

Swimming Pools shall meet the following accessory building/structure requirements:

- Located on the same lot as the principal residential structure or principal use.
- An accessory building must be located at least ten (10) feet from a principal structure, unless attached by a deck then shall meet zoning district setbacks.
- A building attached to the principal building by a breezeway or covered walkway less than twenty (20) feet in length shall not be considered accessory.
- The building coverage area of all principal and accessory buildings and structures shall not exceed the building coverage limits for the zoning district in which located.
- An accessory building may not be placed in front of the principal building unless said structure is located in a Rural District, but in no case shall such accessory building be placed in a front yard setback.

In addition, pools shall meet the following:

- A solid wall, solid fence or chain link fence not less than five (5) feet in height shall enclose all swimming pools.
- Fences shall enclose swimming pools and have a self-latching gate to prevent unauthorized entry.
- Exception: Swimming pools with a power safety cover complying with ASTM F 1346 need not comply with fence requirement.

Building Permits required for all “Swimming Pools”.