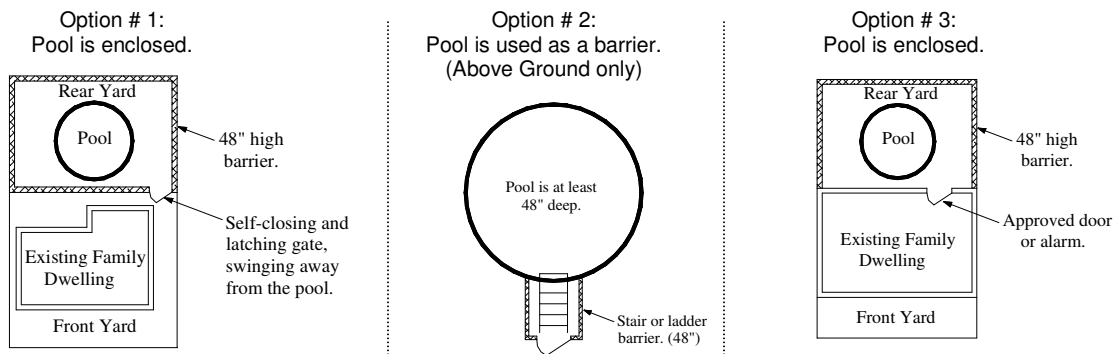# Swimming Pool and Spa Safety

Thinking of installing a swimming pool for your family and friends to enjoy? Philadelphia's Department of Licenses and Inspections would like to assist you in making your pool installation as safe as possible. Following a few guidelines and obtaining permits and inspections for these installations will help you create a safer installation.

Conditions
- The pool must not be located in the front or side yard, and not within two feet of any property line or structure on the lot.
- Water must be properly treated and free of scum, debris, and foreign matter. Discharge water must not create a nuisance to an adjoining property.
- The pool must be installed in accordance with the Manufacturer's Specifications.
- In-ground pools must be located a minimum distance from all property lines equal to the depth of the pool adjoining such property lines.
- Suction outlets must be designed to produce circulation throughout the pool or spa and must be protected against user entrapment.

Barrier Options
The most important requirement of your pool installation is the barrier. Access to pools must be restricted to prevent against potential drowning accidents. One of the three barrier options shown below is required for any pool.

Option # 1:
Pool is enclosed.

Rear Yard

Pool

48" high barrier.

Self-closing and latching gate, swinging away from the pool.

Existing Family Dwelling

Front Yard

Option # 2:
Pool is used as a barrier.
(Above Ground only)

Pool is at least 48" deep.

Stair or ladder barrier. (48")

Option # 3:
Pool is enclosed.

Rear Yard

Pool

48" high barrier.

Approved door or alarm.

Existing Family Dwelling

Front Yard

Electrical and Plumbing Work
Separate permits are required for any electrical and plumbing installations associated with the installation of the pool. This work must be done by licensed professionals.

Building permits for swimming pool installations may be obtained at any of the Department's District or Center City Offices. Permits for above-ground swimming pools may also be obtained on line. The fee for the permit is only $57. To obtain a permit for an above-ground swimming pool or for more information on permits and our office hours and locations, visit our web site at www.phila.gov/li.

All of these things will improve the safety of your swimming pool installation. Please remember the most important requirement in having a swimming pool – supervision.