

**TOWN OF JUPITER BUILDING DIVISION
FIELD INSPECTIONS SERVICES**

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 2002

UPDATE ON POOL SAFETY BARRIERS

Swimming pool and spa safety is an area of critical concern within the Town of Jupiter.

The Florida Building Code chapter 424, and Florida Statue 515, both have specific requirements for safety barriers around pools and spas.

Mesh type pool barrier fences, also known as kiddie fences, may be used in the Town of Jupiter as an alternative to pool door alarms only.

Kiddie fences cannot be used as the primary barrier around a swimming pool or spa.

The primary barrier shall be a permanently installed fence made of wood or metal or PVC, or a masonry wall, or a fabricated screen enclosure, all meeting the requirements of FBC-424 and FS-515.

When door/window alarms are used as a portion of the safety barrier they also must conform to FBC-424 and FS-515 and UL-2017. While many different alarms are portrayed as pool alarms, at this time we have seen only two brands of alarms that meet the all requirements.

The first requirement that distinguishes the approved alarms from the others is that there is no delay upon opening the door. The alarms sounds immediately without any delay and remains sounding. To achieve an entry or exit delay a push button switch must be pushed prior to opening the door. In addition to the control box inside of the home, there is a remote switch on the exterior to allow reentry without sounding the alarm.

The second is that the unit has to be hardwired. One model of alarm we see achieves this by the use of a plug in cord with a cord cap retention device that secures the cord to the receptacle. The other alarm utilizes a remote power supply similar to that for a burglar alarm system.

All door alarms must be installed in a permanent manner. The National Electrical Code, section 110-12, further states that electrical equipment shall be installed in a neat and workman like manner.

To obtain a permanent installation the use of screws, nails, anchors, etc is required for alarm components with mounting holes. Adhesive caulking may be used on those components without mounting holes. Double sided sticky tape is not acceptable for a permanent installation.

Additional information on the State of Florida pool barrier law may be obtained by going to www.myflorida.com.

Additional information on approved door/window alarms may be found at www.grisk.com and at www.smartpoolinc.com.

If you have additional questions please contact Peter Spirito at 741-2257, or peters@jupiter.fl.us