

Barrier Requirements for Outdoor Water Recreation Facilities

Barrier modifications must comply with the WRF regulations:

Water Recreation Facilities (WRF's) serving apartments, health clubs, homeowner's associations, motels, condominiums, etc., fall under the jurisdiction of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). Modifications to the barrier must comply with the following requirements of WAC 246-260 for Water Recreation Facilities. Call the Northeast Tri County Health District for plan review assistance.

Height requirements:

- Facilities associated with dwelling units (such as apartments, motels, campgrounds, etc.) must have a minimum 5 foot high fence.
- Outdoor facilities not associated with dwelling units (such as a municipal park) must have a minimum 6 foot high fence.
- Fence height is measured on the outside of the fence.
- Local city or county building code requirements may be stricter than the state regulations. Contact your local building department for current building code requirements.

Spacing requirements:

- Barriers must not allow passage of a 4 inch sphere in any gap in the fence. This includes the space between the bottom of the fence and the ground.
- *Chain Link fences:* **Standard chain link does not meet the barrier requirements.**
- *Ornamental fences such as wrought iron or picket:*
- Solid barriers such as bricks or cinder blocks may not have indentations or protrusions other than normal construction tolerances and masonry joints.

Latch requirements:

- All entrances to the WRF must have lockable gates or doors, with self-closing mechanisms and **either:**
 - The latch at 60 inches or higher from the ground surface, **or**
 - When the latch is at a lower height, the latching mechanism must be of a type that remains continuously locked, such as a key lock or card lock. The latch must be provided with a solid barrier at least 18 inches wide.
- WRF's that are life guarded at *all times* are not required to have self-closing, self-latching gates during the time the pool is in use. Facility gates must be closed and locked during times of nonuse.

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