



**CITY OF SANTA CLARITA
BUILDING & SAFETY**

**Notice to Homeowners & Contractors
New Law Regarding Swimming Pools & Spas**

**“Swimming Pool Safety Act”
Requirements for the Installation of Anti-Entrapment Devices**

This notice has been revised to reflect recent changes in the state Health and Safety Code regarding the applicability of the provisions, as approved by the governor of California on October 13, 2007 under AB No. 382. These revisions become effective immediately. California state law (Health & Safety Code 115920-115929) requires the following:

For New Swimming Pools & Spas

(115928) - Whenever a building permit is issued for the construction of a new swimming pool or spa, the pool or spa shall meet all of the following requirements:

(a) (1) The suction outlet of the pool or spa for which the permit is issued shall be equipped to provide circulation throughout the pool or spa as prescribed in paragraph two.

(2) The swimming pool or spa shall have at least two circulation drains per pump that shall be hydraulically balanced and symmetrically plumbed through one or more "T" fittings, and that are separated by a distance of at least three feet in any dimension between the drains.

(b) Suction outlets that are less than 12 inches across shall be covered with anti-entrapment grates, as specified in the ASME/ANSI Standard A 112.19.8, that cannot be removed except with the use of tools. Slots or openings in the grates or similar protective devices shall be of a shape, area, and arrangement that would prevent physical entrapment and would not pose any suction hazard to bathers.

(c) Any backup safety system that an owner of a new swimming pool or spa may choose to install in addition to the requirements set forth in subdivisions (a) and (b) shall meet the standards as published in the document, "Guidelines for Entrapment Hazards: Making Pools and Spas Safer," Publication Number 363, March 2005, United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.

For Residences Having an Existing Pool or Spa

(115928.5) Whenever a building permit is issued for the remodel or modification of an existing swimming pool, toddler pool, or spa, the permit shall require that the suction outlet of the existing swimming pool, toddler pool, or spa be upgraded so as to be equipped with an anti-entrapment cover meeting current standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

**Please be advised, the City of Santa Clarita’s Building & Safety Division
will enforce the provisions of this new state law.**

(See other side for common questions & answers)

Common questions and answers regarding this new state law

- Q. What does the new law mean to a homeowner or contractor that is constructing a new pool?**
- A. If you are constructing a new swimming pool or spa, the law requires that the pool or spa be equipped with a drainage system that will prevent the possibility of a person being trapped or held under water by the pool drain system. In part, the law requires that the pool or spa must be equipped with two drains for each pump. It also requires that suction outlets less than 12” in diameter must have anti-entrapment grates to prevent someone from accidentally becoming entrapped by the drainage outlet.
- Q. What does the new law mean to a homeowner who has an existing swimming pool or spa and is planning on doing a remodel or modification to his/her swimming pool, toddler pool, or spa?**
- A. The law requires that any time a building permit is issued for a remodel or modification to a swimming pool, toddler pool, or spa, the pool or spa must be upgraded with an anti-entrapment drain cover that prevents a person from being accidentally entrapped or held under water by the drain.
- Q. What is an anti-entrapment cover?**
- A. An anti-entrapment cover is a device that is installed on the drainage outlet that prevents a person from being entrapped, entangled, or in any way held under water due to the suction of the drain, or becoming entangled in some way by the drain or the grate cover. The law requires that the anti-entrapment cover meet current standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).
- Q. What will the building inspector require of a homeowner or contractor as part of complying with the new law?**
- A. The City building inspector will not be able to “final” a swimming pool, toddler pool, or spa remodel project at a single-family residence with an existing pool or spa until an anti-entrapment cover has been installed on the drainage outlet of the pool or spa. The owner or contractor must certify, in writing, that an approved anti-entrapment cover has been properly installed on the pool or spa and provide such certification to the City to be kept on record that the device was installed. A certification form can be obtained at the Building & Safety public counter.