

“SWIMMING POOL SAFETY” REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TOWN & VILLAGE OF CLAYTON

It is almost summer again, and that means soon we will be filling up the swimming pools. Swimming pools are a great way to cool off from the summer sun, but they can also be dangerous! In fact, more than 300 children across the nation, under the age of five, drown in residential swimming each year and 2,000 other children are treated in an emergency room for injuries related to submersion. Recently, New York State has updated its regulations regarding swimming pools.

Due to these new regulations and the number of small swimming pools that are becoming available, the public should be aware that zoning and building permits are required. The term “swimming pool” describes “any structure intended for swimming, recreational bathing or wading which contains or which is designed to contain water over 24 inches deep. This includes in-ground, above-ground and on-ground pools; indoor pools; hot tubs; spas; and fixed-in-place wading pools.”

Any swimming pool being installed in the Town or Village of Clayton is required to have a zoning permit and it is required to meet the setback requirements of the district where it is planned to be located. It also must meet the New York State Department of State Swimming Pool Rules and Regulations regarding barriers and pool alarms.

An outdoor residential swimming pool must have a barrier that completely surrounds the swimming pool and prohibits access to the pool. The barrier can be a fence, wall, building wall, or a combination thereof and must be at least 4 feet high. Depending on the type of swimming pool, it must meet several other requirements that can be found online at www.dos.state.ny.us/CODE/currpoolreq.htm.

In addition, every swimming pool that is installed, constructed, or substantially modified after December 14, 2006 must be equipped with an approved pool alarm that meets certain requirements such as being capable of detecting a child entering the water and giving an audible alarm when it detects a child entering the water.

A building permit is also required for the installation, construction or substantial modification of a swimming pool in the Town and Village of Clayton. The Code Enforcement Officer will inspect each installation for the barrier and pool requirements, as well as electrical installation and other pool safety requirements. It is important to note that **ALL OF THESE INSPECTIONS MUST BE DONE PRIOR TO THE USE OF THE POOL.**

Additional information on New York State Department of State’s Swimming Pool Rules and Regulations can be found online at www.dos.state.ny.us/code/pools.htm.