



PLANNING, BUILDING, AND BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

## Pool Enclosure Guide

The purpose of this guide is to provide general information in relation to the process of obtaining a permit for an enclosure around your in-ground pool, above-ground pool, or spa. For full and complete details, including a copy of the application for a swimming pool enclosure permit, please read the [Pool Enclosure By-law](#) located on our website.

Under the by-law (By-law No. 2020-16), no person shall install or place a pool or spa that is designed and intended to hold 610 mm (24") of water on their property, without first obtaining a pool enclosure permit.

### Application For Permit

To obtain a permit, the owner shall file an application consisting of the following documents / information:

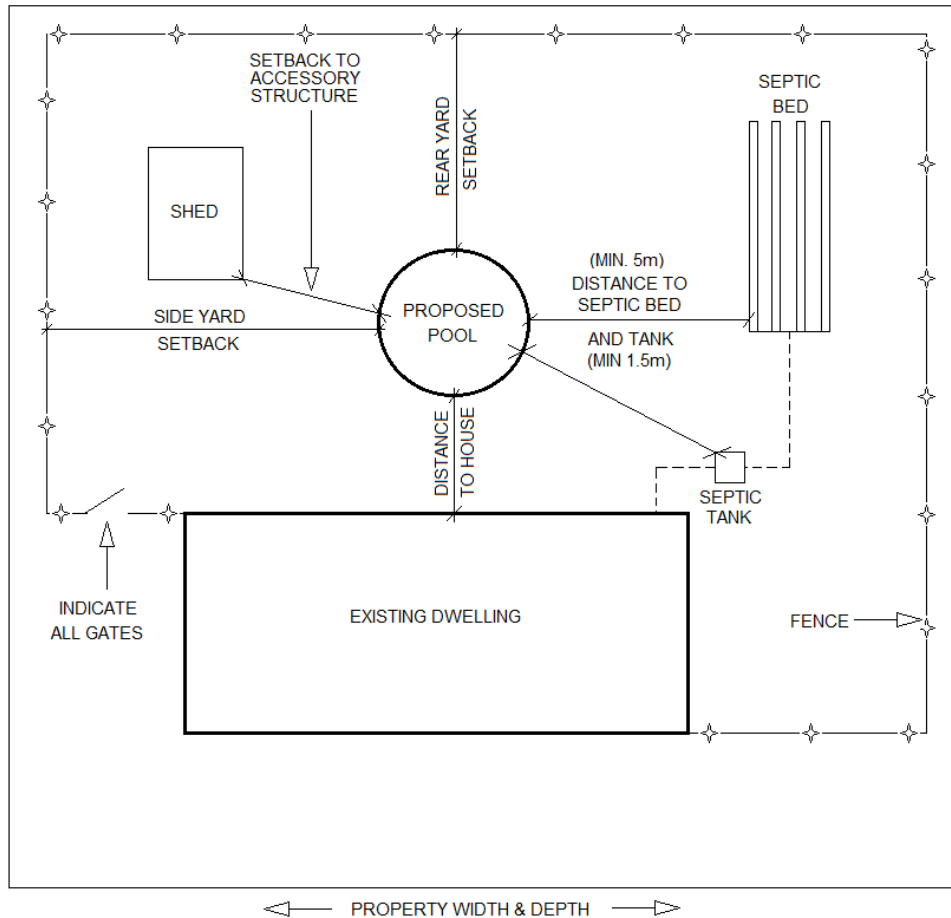
Identify and describe in detail the work to be covered by the permit  
Be accompanied by two (2) complete sets of plans showing details of the enclosure and its relationship to property lines, easements, buildings, decks, septic systems mechanical systems, fences, waterbodies, and water courses

Describe the land upon which the pool enclosure is to be constructed  
Be accompanied by the appropriate fees (paid at time of submitting the application)  
State the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the owner or authorized agent and the contractor performing the work

### Location of Pools, Spas, and Decks

Pools, spas, and pool decks shall not be installed closer than 1.5 m to a septic tank, and 5 m to a septic leaching bed. Setbacks shall be in accordance with the applicable zoning by-Law.

## EXAMPLE OF SITE PLAN



## General Enclosure Requirements

Every enclosure shall:

- Be structurally sound so as to prevent access when the pool or spa is not in use.
- Be constructed in such a manner as to reasonably deter children from climbing.
- Not have rails or any other horizontal or diagonal support or exterior fixtures that might facilitate climbing.
- Not have openings or space between the ground level and pool fence to allow a spherical object with a diameter of 100 mm (4") or more to pass through.
- Be situated at a minimum distance of 1.22 m (48") from the pool unless otherwise approved by the Chief Building Official.

## Specific Enclosure Requirements Based on Pool Type

There are specific enclosure guidelines related to each type of pool or spa. To learn more about these specific guidelines, read section [8.0 – Enclosures](#) of the pool enclosure by-law.

## Temporary Fence

Water shall not be placed in a pool or spa unless an enclosure or temporary fence, minimum 1.2 m (48") in height, is installed and in place beforehand. A temporary fence is permitted for a maximum period of fourteen (14) days at which point a permanent enclosure must be installed.

## Gates

Any opening in an enclosure shall be protected by a gate. Gates in an enclosure shall:

Provide protection equivalent to the enclosure  
Be locked except when the enclosed area is in use and under competent supervision  
Be of similar construction as that of the pool enclosure

Be at least the same height as the enclosure  
Be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device, and a lock at the upper inside of the gate. The device must be installed at not less than 1.22 m (48") in height proportionate to the finished ground level or adjacent floor or step

## Ladders

Where a ladder is the only means of access to an above-ground pool, please ensure:

The ladder and gate are designed for above-ground pools  
The ladder is an A-frame design

The ladder can be enclosed by a lockable cover  
Except for the lowest step, no steps are exposed

## Decks

Any deck or platform that is part of an enclosure shall have a guard and handrail that meets the minimum requirements of the Ontario Building Code. These guards and handrails shall also conform to guidelines as listed in the General Enclosure Requirements section above.

## Pool Equipment

Shall be installed:

At least 1.22 m (48") from an interior side yard and rear yard lot line  
At least 3.5 m (12') from an exterior side yard lot line

At least 1.22 m (48") from the pool. Under a deck adjacent to the pool or located within the pool enclosure is acceptable

## Things Not To Do

- ☒ Hedges and bushes are not considered an appropriate type of enclosure.
- ☒ Do not create any condition that facilitates climbing through or over to gain access to the enclosed area. Enclosures must be a minimum of 1.22m (48") from any condition that would facilitate this.
- ☒ Materials shall not be placed or stored against the outside of the enclosure which could facilitate climbing through or over to gain access to the enclosed area.
- ☒ The wall of an attached or detached accessory building shall not be considered a part of the enclosure unless the door or entrance in that wall has a self-closing door equipped with a self-latching device.
- ☒ Do not install pool equipment in a front yard or within 10 m (33') of a neighbouring house unless the equipment has an enclosure installed to reduce or divert noise away.

If you require any further information or clarity about swimming pool enclosures or the permit application process, please do not hesitate to contact the Township of North Dundas Building, Planning, and By-law Enforcement Department at (613) 744-2105.