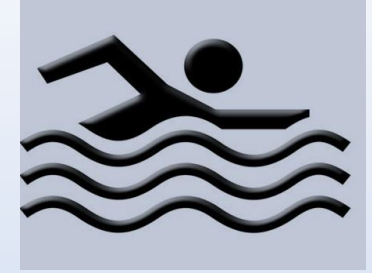


# WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE INSTALLING AN ABOVE GROUND POOL.

Permits are required in Morristown.



## 1. Is it Legal

First check with Zoning, Construction and Engineering.

Zoning: (973) 292-6722 [www.townofmorristown.org/zoning](http://www.townofmorristown.org/zoning)

Construction: (973) 292 -6712 [www.townofmorristown.org/building](http://www.townofmorristown.org/building)

Engineering: (973) 292 -4894 [www.townofmorristown.org/engineering](http://www.townofmorristown.org/engineering)

- **The Application Process**

If you use a contractor to install the pool, they will need to apply for the necessary permits. Although homeowners may apply for permits, the applicant is ultimately responsible for the work done.

- **Necessary Documentation**

Permit applicants will need to provide a plot plan that shows where the pool will be constructed and how far it is from the house and property lines. There are requirements for the distances between the pool, house and property lines. The pool builder must also supply two sets of construction drawings that include copies of the pool's assembly instructions and specification/location for the type of barrier to be installed.

- **Types of Permits Necessary**

A zoning and a building permit will be necessary for the construction of the pool and the barrier that surrounds it. If there is any electricity used by the pool, for a water pump or heater, for example, an electrical permit must also be applied for. If the pool is heated by gas, a gas permit will also be required.

- **Barrier Requirements**

A barrier, such as a fence, must surround the pool and be a minimum of four feet high above grade. For above ground pools, and only if recognized as an approved "code compliant" barrier per the manufacturer, the sides of the pool or a barrier attached to the top of the pool can act as the barrier if the walls are at least 4 feet high. Most of the above ground pools do not have rigid side walls, and typically do not comply with this exception. The space between the bottom of the barrier and the ground must not be more than two inches.

Barriers must not be climbable meaning that there should be no foot or handholds on the outside face of the barrier. If there is a gate, it must open outward and be self-closing and latching. If the latch is positioned lower than 4.5 feet, it must be on the inside of the gate. The gate must also be lockable.

## 2. Decide Where to Put It

Assuming everything checks out legally, you must think about where you're going to put the pool in the backyard. It's important to consider the layout of the yard. Some yards have a slope that will have to be leveled.

If you're planning a whole yard overhaul with a deck that runs from the house to pool, there may be certain zoning restrictions. This kind of goes with the first point: you must be aware of laws that dictate how close a pool can be to the house. Your contractor should know this and abide by these laws, but it's not a bad idea to do some of your own research ahead of time, when you're deciding where to place the pool.

## 3. Size Matters

Pools come in various shapes and diameters — there are oval pools and round pools — and they vary in depth as well. Consider what would work best for your yard and your budget.

Also, make sure to contact (NJ One Call, dial 811 or 800-272-1000) to come out and mark where the power lines in your yard are, so the installation crew doesn't hit them if they do any digging.

**DO NOT install the pool or barrier prior to receiving the required permits.**