



Using Chain Link Fences as Pool Barrier

Fences that are designated for use as part of the pool barrier must meet the following sections of the Florida Building Code: Sections [424.2.17.1](#) through [424.2.17.3](#).

424.2.17.1.1 The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches (51 mm) measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade the barrier may be at ground level or mounted on top of the pool structure. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches (102 mm).

424.2.17.1.2 The barrier may not have any gaps, openings, indentations, protrusions, or structural components that could allow a young child to crawl under, squeeze through, or climb over the barrier as herein described below. One end of a removable child barrier shall not be removable without the aid of tools. Openings in any barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch diameter (102 mm) sphere.

424.2.17.1.6 Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2 ¼ inch (57 mm) square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or bottom which reduce the openings to no more than 1¾ inches (44 mm).

424.2.17.1.8 Access gates, when provided, shall be self-closing and shall comply with the requirements of Sections [424.2.17.1.1](#) through [424.2.17.1.7](#) and shall be equipped with a self-latching locking device located on the pool side of the gate. Where the device release is located no less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the bottom of the gate, the device release mechanism may be located on either side of the gate and so placed that it cannot be reached by a young child over the top or through any opening or gap from the outside. **Gates that provide access to the swimming pool must open outward away from the pool.** The gates and barrier shall have no opening greater than ½ inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the release mechanism.

Maximum Fence Height Allowed

The height of a wall, hedge or fence shall be the vertical distance measured from the average elevation of the finished building site to the top of the wall, hedge or fence. The average elevation shall be measured along both sides of the wall, hedge or fence line. Virgin land may not be increased or decreased to affect the permitted (or required) height of a wall, hedge or fence unless the entire building site is graded to even out the level of the site or to increase it to the required Miami-Dade County flood criteria elevation. **Average elevation shall be determined by taking elevations along both sides of the wall, hedge or fence line, at five-foot intervals and totaling the same and then dividing the total by the number of stations at which the elevations were taken**". The maximum height allowed is 6 feet above this average.