



Complying with County Rules and Local Building Official Requirements
Guidance for Semi-Public Swimming Pool Owners
Door Swing Direction Leading into a Swimming Pool Enclosure



Environmental Services
Department

Maricopa County Environmental Services Department
Swimming Pool Program

The Maricopa County Environmental Health Code (Health Code) requires all doors and gates that are part of a bathing place enclosure to swing outward away from the pool or spa. This provision was added to the Health Code in 2004 when it was revised for all new construction effective March 18, 2004, and has a retroactive provision that requires all existing pools/spas to meet current code by 1/1/2014. To avoid confusion and conflict with local building codes, there are several options available to come into compliance. This document was created for owners and operators so they can comply with the Health Code and local building codes. Please note that regardless of the direction that the doors swing they must be self-closing and self-latching at all times. **Before any modifications are made, it is recommended to first contact your local building department to ensure there will be no building code violations.**

Options to come into compliance with the Health Code:

1. Reverse the swing of the doors so that they swing away from the pool/spa.
2. Doors swing into pool/spa, but they are labeled as emergency access only, and are only used for emergency access. If there are panic bars on the doors less than 54 inches from the ground, the doors would also need to be equipped with non-disarmable alarms.
3. Install a fence around the pool/spa that would eliminate the doors in question as part of the enclosure. (Fence Remodel application and plans will need to be submitted to the Department.)
4. If the above options are not feasible you can apply for a variance from the Health Code to have the door(s) remain as is. You must obtain a signed letter on letterhead from your local building official/department outlining why the door swing cannot be reversed and the applicable ordinance or code. This letter and the reason why the other options are not feasible will need to be submitted with a variance application to the Environmental Services Department.

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