



**Snohomish County**  
Planning and Development  
Services

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ONLINE INFORMATION  
[www.snohomishcountywa.gov/1190](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/1190)



This Assistance Bulletin only applies to property within unincorporated Snohomish County and does not apply to property within incorporated city limits.

Assistance Bulletin

# 17

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[WWW.SNOCO.ORG](http://WWW.SNOCO.ORG)

Keyword: Assistance Bulletins

## Q: Do I need a building permit to build a swimming pool?

**A:** Yes, you do need a building permit in unincorporated Snohomish County, except in the following instance:

Prefabricated swimming pools accessory to Group R, Division 3 Occupancy (residential), in which the pool walls are entirely above the adjacent grade and the pool capacity does not exceed 5,000 gallons.

## Q: Does my pool need engineering?

**A:** Yes. The building official requires plans to be prepared and designed by a structural engineer licensed by the State of Washington. The plans must bear the engineer's stamp. NOTE: Be sure your plans provide backflow protection on your house water supply.

## Q: What are the pool setback requirements?

**A:** First of all, the pool must be at least 5 feet from any property line, as long as no part of the pool projects more than one foot above the adjoining ground level.

Second, if any portion of the pool projects more than one foot above the adjoining ground level, the pool must comply with all zoning and structure setbacks.

Third, the pool must be enclosed with a fence at least 4 feet high, of sufficient design and strength to keep children out.

## Q: How do I get my pool permit?

**A:** You can apply for a swimming pool permit at [MyBuildingPermit.com](http://MyBuildingPermit.com) (MBP). You will need a site plan showing the location of the pool on the property. Submittal information may be obtained at the [Planning and Development Services website](http://Planning and Development Services website).

## Q: How much does the permit cost?

**A:** Both the plan review fee and permit fee will be determined when you submit your application. At the time the plans are submitted, the plan review fees will be collected. After the plans have been reviewed and approved, the building permit will be issued and the building permit fee will be collected.

This bulletin is intended only as an information guide. The information may not be complete and is subject to change. For complete legal information, refer to Snohomish County Code.