

Powerline Clearances and Pool Installations

Planning to have a pool installed? When choosing a location, pool designers and installers need to consider a few factors. The Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) contains rules for the installation of electrical wiring/equipment that operates the pool but also contains rules for the placement of the pool under or adjacent to overhead and underground electrical wiring not associated with the pool such as the powerlines to the home or the neighborhood.

Pools installed under or adjacent to overhead powerlines can be a lethal combination. Installers are at risk of contacting overhead or underground powerlines; pool owners or maintainers may be at risk of contacting powerlines when using long-handled tools such as pool skimmers.

Here are a few key items to consider before deciding a pool location:

- Determine if there are overhead or underground powerlines anywhere near the pool's proposed location;
- Consult with the Local Distribution Company to determine if the proposed pool location will meet the minimum clearance requirements from the powerlines;
- Determine if there are any customer owned wiring near or underground (i.e. supply to a garage or shed)

And don't forget:

Look up and look out! If there are overhead powerlines near the pool, remember to always maintain the safe Limits of Approach as identified in the Ont. Reg 213/91 Construction Projects of the Occupational Health and Safety Act when using equipment such as ladders and excavators.

Call before you dig! Contact Ontario One Call (1 800 400 2255) for locating all **utility-**owned underground infrastructure including natural gas, communications and power lines, as well as water and wastewater pipes.

Note: privately owned underground wiring such as wiring to a garage or shed will require a private locate.

