North Whitehall Township
Do I Need a Permit?
Above-Ground Pools, Inflatable Pools, Hot Tubs & Spas



Above-Ground Pools



Inflatable Pools (Children's Play Pools)



Hot Tubs



Spas

Are you installing a pool, hot tub, or spa?

Can it hold water more than 24 inches deep?

YES → **Likely zoning and UCC review are needed.**

Pools, hot tubs, and spas that can hold water more than 24 inches deep typically require zoning review and may require UCC permits and inspections.

NO



Shallow children's play pools (24 inches or less) may not require the same approvals.

Continue to the next question.

Does it include electrical equipment such as a pump, heater, or spa connection?

YES → **Electrical review and inspection may apply.**

Any electrical equipment, including pumps, heaters, or a dedicated spa connection, may require electrical review and inspection under the UCC.

NO

Continue to the next question.

Will it need a safety barrier, fence, locking cover, ladder protection, or deck gate?

YES → **Barrier requirements must be reviewed.**

Pools, hot tubs, and spas may be subject to safety barrier requirements, such as fencing, locking covers, ladder protection, or deck gates.

NO

Continue to the next question.

Are you unsure?

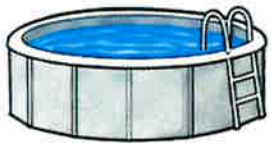
YES → **Ask before you buy or build.**

Contact the Township to discuss your specific project. Requirements may vary based on the type, size, location, and features.

Important: Buying a kit or seasonal pool does not automatically mean no permits are required.

This graphic is a general guide. Project-specific requirements may vary.

North Whitehall Township
Before You Buy Checklist
Above-Ground Pools, Inflatable Pools, Hot Tubs & Spas



Above-Ground Pools



Inflatable Pools (Children's Play Pools)



Hot Tubs



Spas

- ☐ I know the pool or spa dimensions and maximum water depth.
- ☐ I have measured the proposed location on my property.
- ☐ I have checked setbacks, utilities, easements, and septic areas.
- ☐ I understand the barrier, fence, ladder, or safety-cover requirements.
- ☐ I know whether the project includes electrical equipment or electrical work.
- ☐ I have reviewed what permits and approvals may be required.
- ☐ I have considered permit fees, inspections, and other installation costs.
- ☐ I understand that work requiring approval must wait until permits are issued.

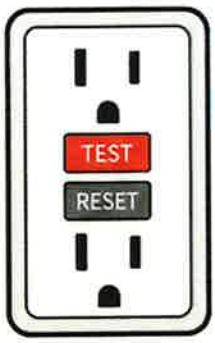
Before you buy, ask. Before you build, get approvals.
Before you use it, make sure it has been reviewed and inspected.

Use this checklist as a planning tool.

North Whitehall Township
Electrical Safety Around Pools & Spas

Water and electricity require special care

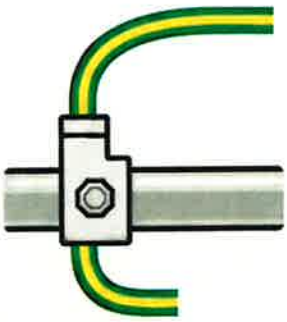
1 DO



GFCI protection may be required.

Outlets and electrical equipment near pools, hot tubs, and spas typically must be protected by a Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI).

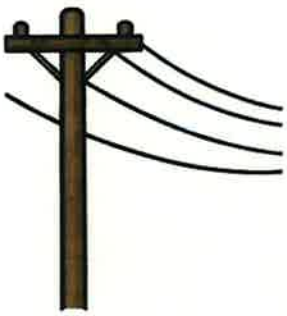
2 DO



Bonding and grounding are important.

Pools, hot tubs, and spas typically require bonding and grounding of electrical equipment and metal components to reduce the risk of electric shock.

3 DO



Keep clear of overhead electrical lines.

Maintain a safe distance from overhead electrical lines when installing a pool, hot tub, spa, or related equipment.

4 DON'T



No extension cords for permanent use.

Extension cords should not be used for permanent power to pools, hot tubs, spas, or their equipment. Use proper, code-compliant wiring and outlets installed by a qualified professional.

5 DO



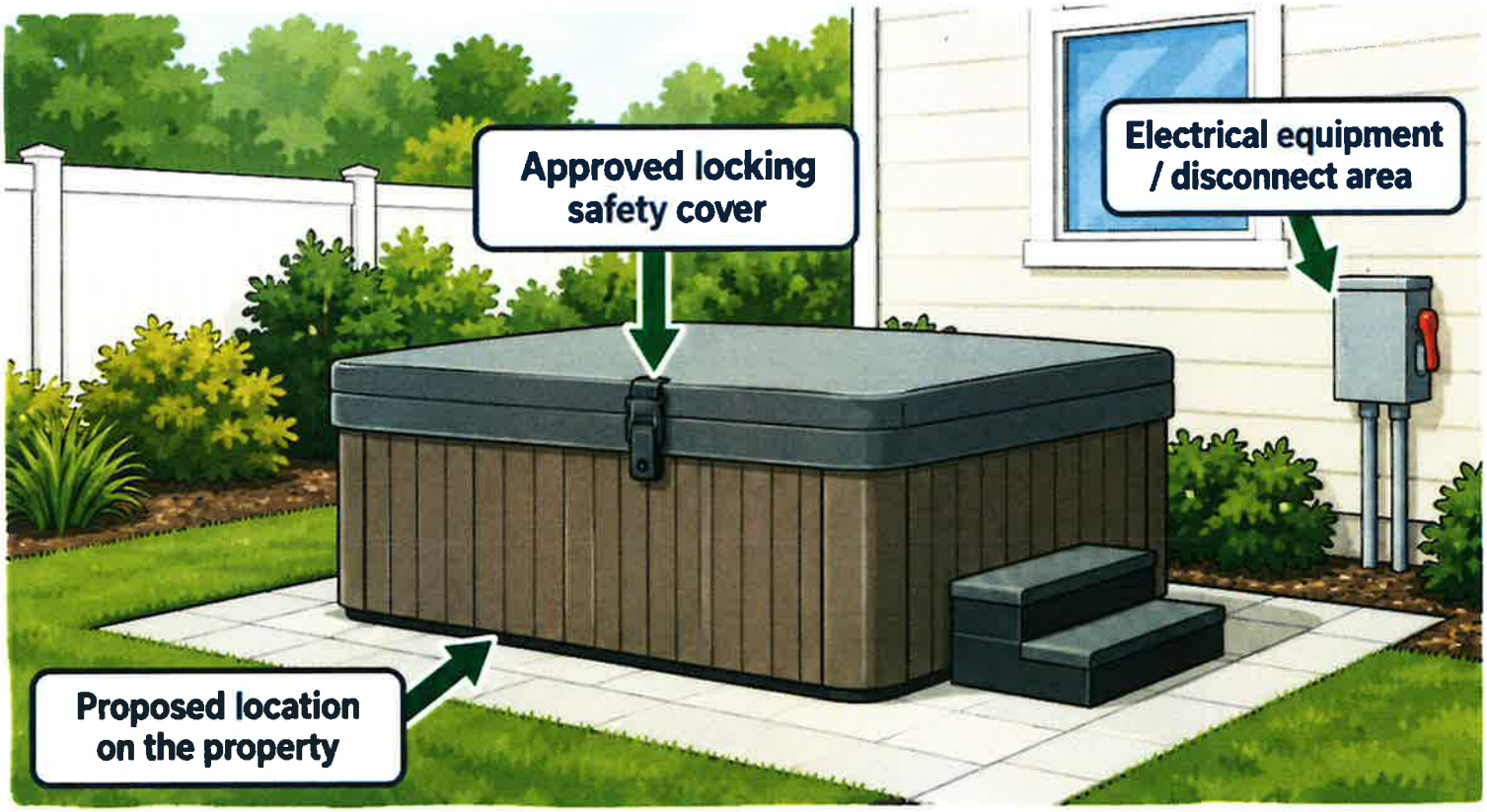
Required electrical inspections must be completed.

Pools, hot tubs, and spas, as well as their electrical equipment, typically require electrical review and inspection under the UCC. Inspections help ensure the installation meets safety requirements.

"Plug-and-play" does not automatically mean exempt from code review.

Contact the Township and your selected inspection agency if you are unsure.

North Whitehall Township
Hot Tubs & Spas
Safety covers, placement, and electrical review



A locking safety cover may satisfy certain barrier requirements for a spa.

An approved locking safety cover can help meet barrier requirements in some cases. Additional requirements may still apply.

Not every spa cover qualifies as an approved safety cover.

A cover must be specifically designed and capable of being locked to qualify. Standard or non-locking covers typically do not meet the requirement.

Electrical review may still be required, even for "plug-and-play" units.

All electrical equipment, including plug-in spas, may require electrical review and inspection under the UCC.

Before you buy or install, make sure to:

- ☑ Review the manufacturer specifications
- ☑ Confirm the location before purchase
- ☑ Plan for electrical and inspection requirements

Requirements may vary depending on the unit and installation.

North Whitehall Township
Does a Deck Change Anything?
Above-ground pools with decks need extra attention

A deck can bypass the protection provided by the pool wall.

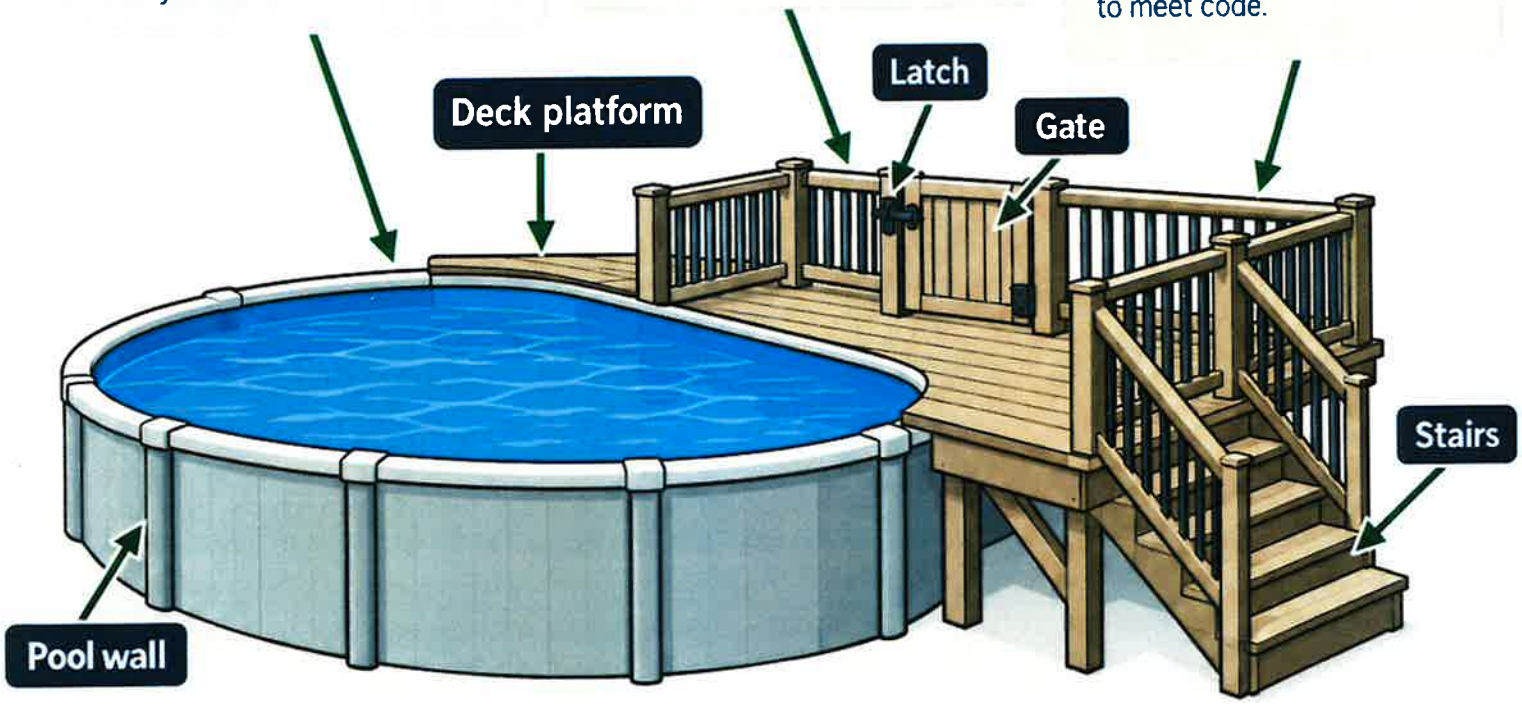
Decks can provide direct access to the pool, allowing someone to enter the water without going over the pool wall. This can reduce the effectiveness of the pool wall as a safety barrier.

A compliant gate is often required at the stair or access point.

A self-closing, self-latching gate is typically required where the deck or stairs provide access to the pool or pool deck. Gate requirements may vary based on the project design.

Additional barrier protection may be required depending on the design.

Depending on the height of the deck and how it provides access to the pool, additional fencing, barriers, or other protection may be required to meet code.



Plan the deck, stairs, and barrier together—not as separate afterthoughts.

Deck design, stair placement, and barrier requirements are all interconnected. Discuss your plans with the Township early in the design process.

Do not assume a deck can be added later without affecting barrier compliance.

Illustrative example only.

North Whitehall Township
Above-Ground Pool Barrier Examples

An above-ground pool must have an approved safety barrier

1 Pool wall serving as barrier



- **Pool wall may serve as barrier.**
- **Ladder must be secured, locked, removed, or otherwise protected.**

2 Pool with surrounding fence



- **Fence and gate may be used to satisfy barrier requirements.**
- **Gate should be self-closing and self-latching.**

3 Pool with attached deck



- **Deck may create additional access.**
- **Additional gate or barrier protection may be required.**

A 48-inch-high pool wall does not automatically mean the installation is compliant.

Barrier compliance is determined through permit review and inspection.

North Whitehall Township Inflatable & Seasonal Pool Examples

Why temporary does not always mean exempt

Example 1



Shallow children's play pool

May not trigger the same review requirements.

Example 2



Inflatable seasonal pool

Check maximum water depth before you buy.

Example 3



Framed seasonal pool

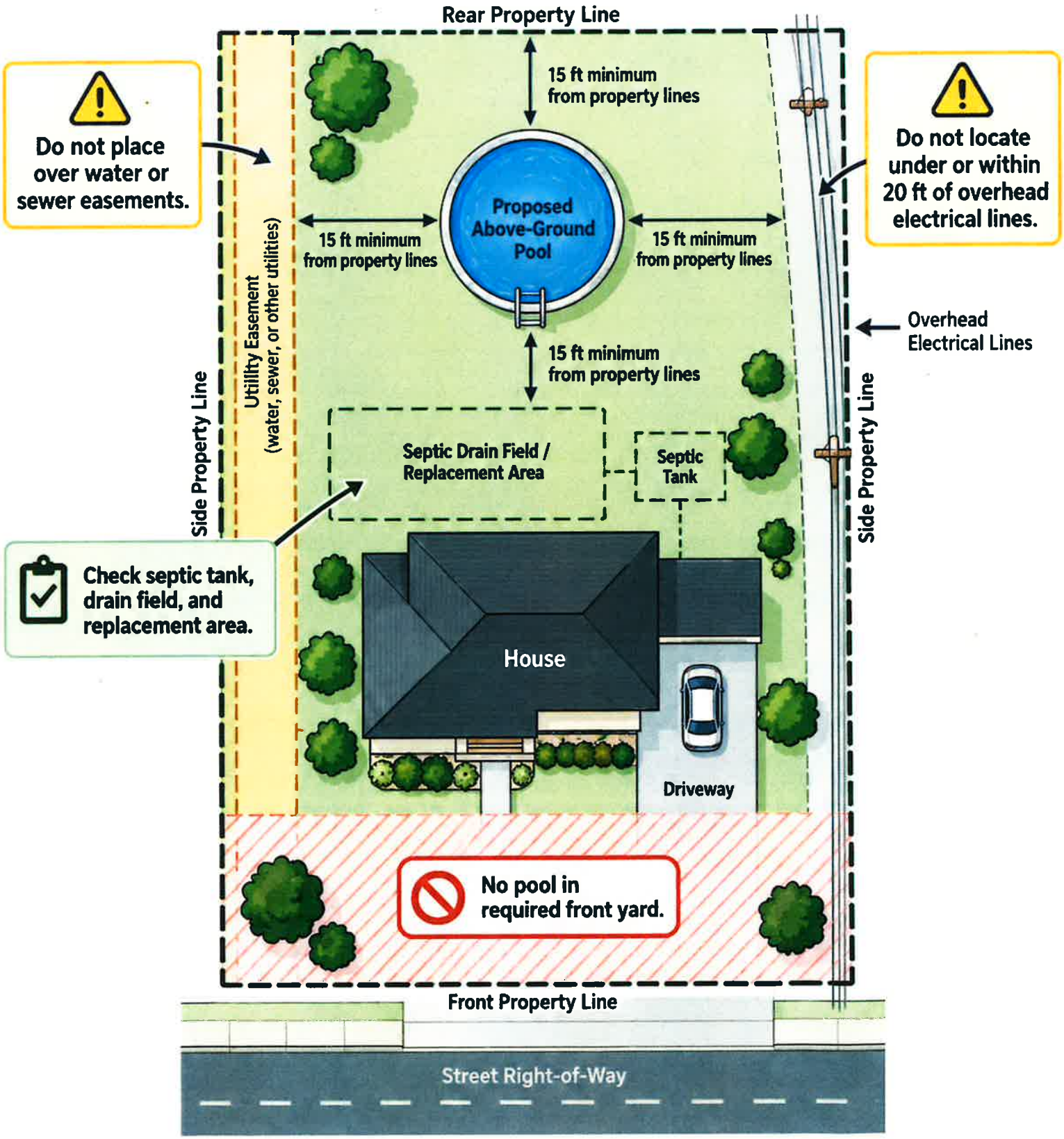
Barrier, location, and permit review may apply.

Important: If a pool can hold more than 24 inches of water, do not assume it is exempt.

1. **Know the maximum water depth**
2. **Check where it will go on your property**
3. **Ask before you assemble it if you are unsure.**

This graphic is a general guide. Project-specific requirements may vary.

North Whitehall Township
Pool Placement Diagram
Illustrative Residential Example



Illustrative example only. Property-specific conditions may vary.