

Residential Electrical Swimming Pool Information

This is not an all-inclusive list of all of the requirements of the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) Article 680. However, the following information is a basic overview of some of the key points of Article 680. Installations shall comply with all of the requirements of the 2020 NEC.

ARTICLE 680 DEFINITION- Permanently Installed Swimming Pools- those that are constructed in the ground or partially in the ground, and all others capable of holding water in a depth greater than 42”, and all pools installed inside a building, regardless of water depth, whether or not served by electrical circuits of any nature, is considered a permanent pool, and shall comply with Article 680 in the 2020 NEC.

General Requirements:

1. Placement of installation of pools shall maintain clearances from overhead conductors, communication cables, and underground wiring. (Section 680.08, Article 680.9 & 680.11)
2. **NEC 300.5** – Branch circuits for pool-associated motors shall comply with this section for underground installations (UF cable not permitted see 680-11A). Conductors installed underground in conduit shall be listed for wet locations.
3. **NEC 680.11** The branch circuits for pool-associated motors shall be installed in rigid metal conduit, intermediate metal conduit, rigid polyvinyl chloride conduit, reinforced thermosetting resin conduit, or Type MC cable listed for the location. Other wiring methods and materials shall be permitted in specific locations or applications as covered in this section. **Any wiring method employed shall contain a green “insulated copper equipment grounding conductor” sized in accordance with 250.122 but not smaller than 12 AWG.**
4. **NEC 680.20** – Receptacles that provide power for water-pump motors or for other loads directly related to the circulation and sanitation system shall be located at least 10’ from the inside walls of the pool, or not less than 6’ from the install walls of the pool if they meet the following conditions- (1) & (2) they shall be of the locking and the ground type, (3) consist of a single receptacle, and (4) shall be protected by a ground-fault circuit interrupter.
5. **NEC 680.22,(A)(3)**-Where a permanently installed pool is installed at a dwelling unit(s), no fewer than one 125-volt 15-or 20-ampere receptacle on a general purpose branch circuit shall be located not less than 6’ from, and not more than 20’ from the inside wall of the pool. This receptacle shall be not located more than 6’-6” above the floor platform, or grade level serving the pool.
6. **NEC 680.22,(A)**- All 15 and 20 ampere receptacles located within 20’ of the inside walls of a pool shall be protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter. The receptacle shall be tamper resistant per section 406.9 and shall be listed as weather-resistant type per 406.9 Weather Proof Cover Required.
7. **NEC 680.22,(B)-GFCI Protection-** Outlets supplying pool pump motors from branch circuits with short circuit and ground-fault protection rated 15 or 20 amperes 125 volt or

240 volt, single phase, whether by receptacle or direct connection, shall be provided with ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection from personnel.

Pool Bonding:

8. **NEC 680.26,(B) Bonded Parts.** The part specified in 680.26(B)(1) through (B)(7) shall be bonded together using solid copper conductors, insulated covered, or bare, not smaller than 8 AWG or with rigid metal conduit of brass or other identified corrosion-resistant metal. Connections to bonded parts shall be made in accordance with 250.8. An 8 AWG or larger solid copper bonding conductor provided to reduce voltage gradients in the pool area shall not be required to be extended or attached to remote panelboards, service equipment, or electrodes.
9. **NEC 680.26,(B)(2)-Perimeter Surfaces.** The perimeter surface shall extend **3 feet horizontally** beyond the inside walls of the pool and **shall include unpaved surfaces** as well as poured concrete and other types of paving. Bonding to perimeter surfaces shall be provided as specified in **680.26,(B)(2)(a) or (2)(b)** and shall be attached to the pool reinforcing steel or copper conductor grid at a minimum of four point uniformly spaced around the perimeter of the pool. **For non-conductive pool shells, bonding at four points shall not be required. According to this section the bonding conductor (8 AWG) shall be installed 18"-24" from the inside walls to the pool, following the contour of the perimeter surface around the pool, and shall be attached to the pool or grid at a minimum of 4 points uniformly spaced. The conductor shall be secured within or underneath the perimeter surface 4"-6" below the sub-grade. Only listed splices shall be permitted, 680.7.**
10. **NEC 680.26,(C)- Pool Water-** An intentional bond at a minimum conductive surface area of 9 inches squared shall be installed in contact with the pool water. This bond shall be permitted to consist of parts that are required to be bonded in 680.26(B).

Disclaimer: Always be especially careful when working on electrical projects and with electrical equipment. National Electrical Codes, local building requirements and planning commission regulations specific to your area must always be held in compliance and considered before undertaking any home electrical project. If you are at all unsure about completing any aspect of this or other home wiring projects, consult a qualified electrical contractor to perform the service(s) for you. This is a BASIC overview and does not list all conditions required to comply with 2020 NEC