



# Swimming Pools in the Vicinity of Electrical Wires



If your plans to stay cool and make a splash include a new pool, there is information you need to be aware of and regulations that need to be followed.

### Electrical safety around swimming pools is critical.

That’s why it is essential that you adhere to all the specifications required under the Ontario Electrical Safety Code and Hydro Ottawa’s Conditions of Service. Keep in mind, any hot tubs, decks, sheds or fences that accompany your pool are also subject to the same regulations.

For your protection, ensure that a licensed electrician installs all electrical connections to a pool or pool-related equipment. An electrical inspection by the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) is a required part of the process. Failure to do this could make you liable for any electrical accidents in or near the pool.

Your compliance with the following specifications and recommendations will ensure you enjoy your pool this summer in the safest way possible.

### Easements

Swimming pools, pool decks (concrete or wood), patio blocks, retaining walls, pool filters, hot tubs, storage sheds or any other equipment or structure should NOT be located within a Hydro Ottawa easement\* or over the underground cable(s) servicing a house. The existing grade elevation over the easement or underground service cable is not to be raised or lowered by more than 15 cm (6 in). A fence along the edge of an easement is permitted.

Please check your property survey to determine if there are easements on your property in the vicinity of your pool. You may also contact Hydro Ottawa’s Asset Records department at 613-738-5499 ext.7173.

\*A hydro easement is a strip of land, generally along property lines, which allows Hydro Ottawa to maintain overhead and underground electrical equipment.

### Underground Electrical Wiring

The minimum horizontal distance between Hydro Ottawa-owned underground cables and the inside walls of a pool must not be less than the minimum requirements shown below. This applies to both above ground and inground pools.

Underground line voltage	Minimum distance between the inside walls of a pool and underground cables	
	Direct buried	Installed in conduit or jacketed
0 – 750 volts	1.5 m (5 ft)	1.0 m (3 ft)
751 – 15,000 volts	3.0 m (10 ft)	1.5 m (5 ft)
15,001 – 28,000 volts	6.0 m (20 ft)	2.0 m (6.5 ft)

Upon request, Hydro Ottawa will expose the underground cable(s) and install the necessary conduit or relocate the cable(s) to obtain the minimum safe clearances where feasible for a charge.

A minimum horizontal distance of 3.0 m (10 ft) is to be maintained between Hydro Ottawa transformers and a swimming pool.

### Overhead Electrical Wiring

Safe clearances must be maintained between your pool and overhead electrical wires. The minimum distances are shown below.

Overhead line voltage	Minimum distance between a pool or related equipment such as pool ladders and overhead wires
0 – 750 volts	5.0 m (16 ft)
751 – 50,000 volts	7.5 m (25 ft)

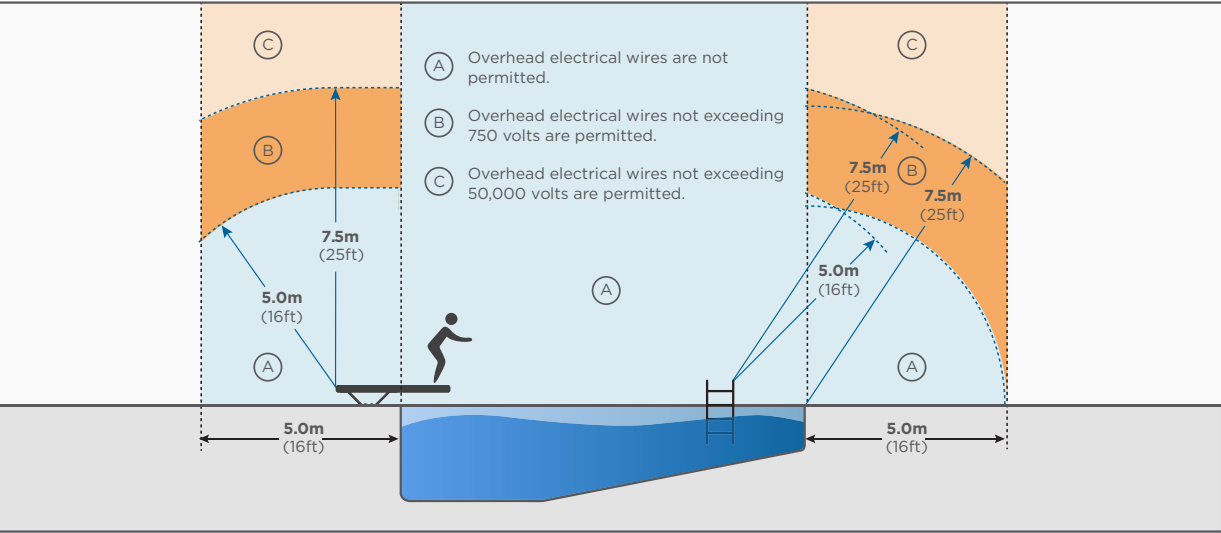
Overhead electrical wires are not permitted directly above open water.

If your proposed pool location necessitates the relocation of overhead wires, Hydro Ottawa will assess the situation and if the relocation is feasible, this work will be completed by Hydro Ottawa for a charge.

### Play Safe!

Water and electricity don’t mix. Keep electrical devices, such as radios, electric lawnmowers and trimmers well away from your pool. Remember, the Ontario Electrical Safety Code requires all outside outlets to have a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). A GFCI can prevent or minimize shocks caused by faulty equipment.

### Protective Safety Envelopes for Overhead Electrical Wiring



### Energy Conservation Tips

- + Use pump timers to regulate electricity use.
- + Cover your pool with a thermal pool blanket to prevent heat from escaping and water evaporation.
- + Use solar panels to heat your pool. They are very cost-effective.
- + Create windbreaks around your pool. Bushes, privacy panels or fencing are all effective measures that may help reduce heat loss.

### Obtaining a Permit

You must obtain a permit before you begin construction of your pool. The City of Ottawa issues pool permits. Call 311 or 613-580-2400 to find the location of the Client Service Centre nearest you.

### Call Or Click Before You Dig!

All underground utilities are members of *Ontario One Call* which accepts requests for “locates” of underground utility services, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For this free service, call 1 800-400-2255 or submit your request online at [on1call.com](http://on1call.com) at least five working days before starting to dig on your property. If necessary, a cable locator will be sent to your home to identify and mark the location of buried facilities. You will be given the information quickly so that you can get on with your job safely.

### Contact Us

If you have a comment, question or would like more information on your underground or overhead line voltages:

**Telephone:** 613-738-6400

Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
(excluding statutory holidays)

**Email:** [servicedesk@hydroottawa.com](mailto:servicedesk@hydroottawa.com)

Service Desk support is available during regular business hours  
Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
(excluding statutory holidays)

Additional information can be found at [hydroottawa.com/developersguide](http://hydroottawa.com/developersguide).