

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE FOR
McHENRY COUNTY ILLINOIS**

McHENRY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**ARTICLE II
PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCE**

Approved: _____, 2025
Effective Date: _____ 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Title	Page
§ 8.04.080	Requirements	3
§ 8.04.090	Open Burning of Landscape Waste	4
§ 8.04.100	Barriers for Residential Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs	5

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE FOR
McHENRY COUNTY ILLINOIS
McHENRY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

ARTICLE II – PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCE

DEFINITIONS: See § 8.04.010 of Article I.

INTENT AND PURPOSE: See § 8.04.020 of Article I.

§ 8.04.080 REQUIREMENTS

The following are declared public health nuisances prejudicial to the public health:

- A.** To cause or suffer the carcass of any animal or any offal or filth to be collected, deposited or to remain in any place to the prejudice of others. Livestock waste disposed on agriculturally zoned land in compliance with State and local laws, ordinances, or regulations is exempt. Animal carcasses shall be properly disposed of within twenty-four (24) hours of a death of an animal.
- B.** Allowing accumulations of litter; human, animal, industrial, noxious or offensive waste; Provided, that, acceptable storage of livestock manure on a farm is permitted when this storage is in compliance with State and local laws, ordinances, and regulations.
- C.** Maintaining garbage containers, which are not vermin and rodent proof.
- D.** Allowing any infestation in a structure or on a property of pests or vermin that may be involved in transmission of communicable diseases or failing to remove conditions in a structure or on a property that may permit such infestation.
- E.** Failing to eradicate all noxious weeds within 150 feet of any property line.
- F.** Allowing occupancy of a building that is an exposed public hazard as a source of filth or in a condition prejudicial to the health and safety of the public.
- G.** Failing to remove or seal unoccupied buildings that are an exposed public hazard, as a source of filth or in a condition prejudicial to the health and safety of the public in such a manner as to prevent entry.
- H.** Failing to remove vehicles, refrigerators, freezers, stoves, and similar equipment, which have been abandoned to the potential peril of persons from the property.
- I.** Offering used mattresses, swimsuits, wigs, and other personal items for sale to the public unless these items are sanitized as approved by the Health Authority.
- J.** Failure of a personal care provider to sanitize multi-use personal care tools or equipment including but not limited to combs, hairbrushes, nail clippers, foot spa basins, etc. using an EPA approved sanitizer or disinfectant, per the label directions, after each use, between separate individuals.
- K.** Failing to provide a potable water supply sufficient in quantity and pressure to adequately serve all plumbing fixtures therein, in any building in which people live, work or assemble.
- L.** Operating a tanning facility without a valid permit issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health contrary to the provisions of the Illinois Tanning Facility Permit Act or the Illinois

- M.** Operating a tattoo and/or body piercing establishment without a valid registration issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health contrary to the provisions of the Illinois Tattoo and Body Piercing Establishment Registration Act or the Illinois Department of Public Health Body Art Code.

§ 8.04.090 OPEN BURNING OF LANDSCAPE WASTE

- A. INTENT AND PURPOSE:** Whereas, open burning creates a risk of losses due to fire and impairs air quality, regulation of open burning is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

B. REQUIREMENTS

1. Exemptions

- a. Subsections B.2.a. and B.2.b.; B.3. c.1-3.; and B.4.b. shall not apply to prescribed burns associated with ecologic restoration or natural landscape management, any burning of landscape waste for purposes of habitat reclamation, or firefighter training.
- b. Subsections B.2.a. and B.2.b.; B.3.c.1-3.; and B.4.b. shall not apply to the burning of brush for purposes of cooking, heating or recreational fires in domestic fire places or self-contained outdoor wood-burning devices.
- c. Subsections B.2.a. and B.2.b.; B.3.c.1-3.; and B.4.b. shall not apply to the open burning of brush for purposes of recreational fires.
- d. B.2.a. and B.2.b.; B.3.c.1-3.; and B.4.b. shall not apply to the open burning of brush for purposes of ceremonial fires or bonfires provided that notice of any ceremonial fire or bonfire has been given to the fire protection district or fire department serving the area where the fire is to take place and a permit has been obtained from the McHenry County Department of Health. Permit applications shall be submitted to the Department at least 2 business days prior to the date of the ceremonial fire or bonfire. Failure to obtain a permit from the McHenry County Department of Health prior to conducting a ceremonial fire utilizing brush shall be deemed a violation of this article. Failure to notify the applicable fire protection district or fire department and obtain permission prior to conducting a ceremonial fire utilizing brush shall be deemed a violation of this article.
- e. Subsection B.3.c.(1) shall not apply where the fire is located five hundred feet (500') or greater from a habitable structure.

2. Prohibition

- a. Open burning of landscape waste shall not take place within one hundred feet (100') feet of a habitable structure.
- b. Open burning of landscape waste shall not take place less than fifty feet (50') from any structure that is not habitable.
- c. The burning of manure, garbage, litter or any materials other than landscape waste and/or brush is prohibited on any property in McHenry County.
- d. The Chairman of the County Board shall have the authority to prohibit all open burning of landscape waste in the event of emergencies that require shifting of staff priorities or conditions that may represent significant potential for fire safety issues.

3. Restrictions

- a. Any open burning in the County of McHenry shall be in accordance with the restrictions enumerated below:

- b. The open burning of landscape waste shall only occur on the property upon which the landscape waste was generated. The burning of any materials other than landscape waste is prohibited.
- c. The following restrictions upon the open burning of landscape waste on the property upon which it was generated shall prevail:
 - (1) Burning is permitted only on weekends, between dawn and dusk, during the months of October, November, April and May.
 - (2) Burning is not permitted when the wind is in excess of ten (10) miles per hour.
 - (3) Burning is not permitted of any material other than dry landscape waste and/or brush.
 - (4) Burning is not permitted on public or private roads, alleys, sidewalks or easements.
 - (5) Burning is not permitted when it is a visibility hazard on roadways, railroad tracks or airfields.

4. Conditions and Limitations of Open Burning

- a. All open burning must be supervised by an individual at least 18 years of age until the fire is extinguished.
- b. A fire extinguisher or garden hose or water source shall be available at the burning site.
- c. It is the responsibility of the individual conducting the burning and the owner of the property to comply with all conditions upon burning as noted above during any burning.
- d. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause or allow any open or uncontrolled burning of landscape waste and/or other materials in violation of the above regulations and restrictions.
- e. Any ceremonial fire (bonfire) or recreational fire must be supervised by an individual at least 18 years of age or older.
- f. The Chairman of the County Board shall have the authority to waive all or part of the requirements of this Ordinance in the event of emergencies resulting from natural phenomenon or civil strife.

5. Enforcement, Violations and Penalties

- a. McHenry County Department of Health shall be primarily responsible for the enforcement of this Ordinance. Any enforcement officer of the McHenry County Department of Health, law enforcement agency, fire department or fire protection district is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this article.
 - b. Any person who violates any provision of [§ 8.04.090](#) shall be subject to the penalty and injunctive relief set forth in § 8.04.050 of Article I. The burning of any toxic material and any prior convictions under this article shall be considered factors in aggravation for purposes of the assessment of any fines.
6. This Ordinance does not supersede any requirements of a government entity that may be more restrictive.

§ 8.04.100 BARRIERS FOR RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS

A . INTENT AND PURPOSE:

- 1. The provisions of this document shall control the design of barriers for residential swimming

pools, spas and hot tubs. These design controls are intended to provide protection against potential drowning and near drowning to children under the age of five (5) by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

2. Applicability:

- a. All residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs, located in unincorporated McHenry County, that meet the requirements of § 8.04.100 B15 or § 8.04.100 B16 as of (effective date) are subject to this Section. All other residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs located in unincorporated McHenry County are subject to the applicable barrier regulation adopted by the McHenry County Board and enforced by the McHenry County Department of Planning & Development.
- b. Residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs located inside the boundaries of a municipality within McHenry County are subject to the relevant municipal pool barrier regulation.

B. REQUIREMENTS

1. **Usage:** In no case shall a swimming pool, hot tub or spa be put into use until it is in compliance with the following requirements and any applicable building code.
2. **Outdoor swimming pool:** An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground, aboveground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa, shall be provided with a barrier which shall comply with the following:
3. **Barrier:** The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be four (4) inches measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an aboveground pool, the barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure, or mounted on top of the pool structure. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be four (4) inches.
4. **Natural Barrier:** The barrier requirements are waived for the portion of the pool/spa/hot tub facing the natural barrier. On all other sides of the property, the barrier must extend to the legal (where established) or normal water level.
5. **Openings in barrier:** Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a four (4) inch diameter sphere.
6. **Solid barriers:** Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.
7. **Barrier horizontal and vertical members less than 45 inches:** Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches, spacing between the vertical members shall not exceed 1 ¾ inches in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 ¾ inches in width.
8. **Barrier horizontal and vertical members 45 inches or more:** Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members of 45 inches or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed four (4) inches. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing

within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 ¾ inches in width.

9. **Mesh size for chain link:** Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 1 ¼ inch square unless the fence is provided with slats fastened at the top or bottom which reduce the openings to no more than 1 ¾ inches.
10. **Barrier diagonal members:** Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall be no more than 1 ¾ inches.
11. **Access gates:** Access gates shall comply with the requirements of subsections B.1 through B.10 above, and shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device. Pedestrian access gates shall open outwards away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall have a self-latching device. Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 54 inches from the bottom of the gate,
 - a. the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least three (3) inches below the top of the gate and
 - b. the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.
12. **An aboveground pool structure used as a barrier:**
 - a. Where an aboveground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps then:
 - (1) the ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access or
 - (2) the ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of B.1. through B.11. above.
 - b. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked, or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.
13. **Moat used to obtain clearance:** Where a moat is used to obtain the 48 inch clearance from ground surface to top of pool, it shall also be 48 inches from the outside rim of the moat to the top of the barrier (or rim of the pool).
14. **Prohibited locations:** Barriers shall be located so as to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb the barriers.
15. **Exemptions:**
 - a. A spa or hot tub with a solid lockable safety cover which complies with ASTM F1346-91 (Replaces ES 13-89) listed below shall be exempt from the provisions of this document. Swimming pools with safety covers shall not be exempt. ASTM F1346-91 (Replaces ES 13-89). Emergency performance Specification for Safety covers and labeling requirements for covers for Spas and Hot Tubs.
 - b. Swimming pools/spas/ hot tubs located greater than 500 feet from neighboring residence and that have been in existence prior to January 1, 1992 shall be exempt from all requirements of § 8.04.100, until such time that a neighboring residence is located within 500 feet of the existing swimming pool.
 - c. The mesh size for chain link barriers in existence prior to October 18, 1994, that are no larger than 2 ¼ inches square, providing an opening of no more than 3 1/5 inches shall be exempt from subsection B.9. above.
 - d. Swimming pools/spas/hot tubs that have been in existence prior to January 1, 1992 and for which there exists an occupancy certificate issued by the County after August 21, 1990.

This exemption shall only apply to pools, spas, and hot tubs that have been issued an occupancy certificate under the 1990 BOCA and that continue to be in compliance with the provisions of the 1990 BOCA National Building Code.

16. Variances:

- a. **Intent:** it is the intent of **§ 8.04.100** of the McHenry County Public Health Ordinance that all swimming pools, spas and hot tubs have an effective barrier to discourage access of youngsters (less than 5 years of age). However, it is recognized that unique circumstances may exist that would preclude immediate compliance with all parts of **§ 8.04.100** for swimming pools/spas/hot tubs in existence prior to January 1, 1992.
- b. **Standards for a Variance:** Variations from the regulations of this ordinance may be granted in each of the following instances:
 - (1) For the swimming pools/spas/hot tubs built prior to January 1, 1992, and that require measurement specifications as set forth in this Ordinance, may be granted a variance provided that the “as built” configuration does not deviate by more than 15% of the measurement specifications. The Petitioner shall be exempt from the notice requirements of subsection B.16.c. below.
 - (2)
 - (a) Furthermore, a Variance may be granted where evidence is presented and demonstrates:
 - i. The swimming pools/spas/hot tubs have been built prior to January 1, 1992.
 - ii. The swimming pools/spas/ hot tubs are located 200 feet to 500 feet from a neighboring residence or less than fifty feet from a natural barrier.
 - iii. The granting of the variation will not be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to other property or improvements in the neighborhood in which the property is located
 - (b) The Petitioner shall provide notice as set forth in B.16.c. below.
- c. **Notice:** The Petitioner shall notify by means of certified mail-return receipt requested, all of the most recent real estate taxpayers of record of all property abutting the property designated in the petition for a variation. If said property designated in the Petition is bounded by a public road or street, alley or any other public way, such notice shall be sent to all of the most recent real estate taxpayers abutting the public road or street, alley or any other public way directly across the Petitioner’s property. All such notices shall be mailed not more than thirty (30) days nor less than fifteen (15) days in advance of filing the petition for variance. The Petitioner shall file a sworn affidavit containing a copy of the notice, the names and addresses of all taxpayers entitled to notice and those who received notice.
- d. **Issuance and Time Period:** The Department shall review the variation petition based on the Standards for a Variance. The Department shall, within 10 days from the date of filing the petition, approve or disapprove the petition, notifying the petitioner to that effect in writing. A variance shall be valid for five (5) years.
- e. **Recording:** Where a petition is approved for a variance, within 10 days of said approval, the Petitioner shall file a record with the McHenry County Recorder’s Office a notice of variance

which shall prescribe the following information:

- (a) Grantee(s) name – Owner(s)
- (b) Grantee(s) Address
- (c) Legal Description of the Property
- (d) Property Index Number
- (e) A statement of Variance and its Duration
- (f) Name and Address of Preparer

- f. **Appeals:** Appeals may be made in accordance with Article I of the McHenry County Public Health Ordinance.

17. Swimming pools, spas and hot tubs located in unincorporated McHenry County that no longer meet the requirements of § 8.04.100 B15 or § 8.04.100 B16 shall be provided with a barrier that complies with the current requirements for swimming pool, spa and hot tub barriers, as enforced by the McHenry County Department of Planning & Development.