



Department of Permitting Services
Division of Building Construction
 255 Rockville Pike, 2nd Floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850

CODE INTERPRETATION/POLICY

Policy Name: Required Permits for Spa/Hot Tubs		
Code/Year NEC/2008 IRC/2009	Section of Code Art 680 Sec. 105	Title of Code Section/Subsection Spa/Hot Tub Installations
Statement/Background of Issue To clarify when permits are required for spa/hot tub installations.		
Division Interpretation/Policy		
<p>A. When a spa or hot tub is installed <u>within a dwelling</u>;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An electrical permit is required for both self-contained (plug-in) and "hard-wired" installations. 2. A building permit is required in order to determine: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Safe floor loading (water weighs 8.34 lbs/gallon and 62.22 lbs/cubic foot) b. Structural stability c. Flame spread ratings d. Labeled or listed unit <p>B. When a spa or hot tub is installed <u>outside a dwelling</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An electrical permit is required for both self-contained (plug-in) and "hard-wired" installations. 2. All units must meet required setback restrictions. 3. A building permit is required for hard-wired installations, or when the spa or hot tub is to be located on an existing deck. 4. No building permit is required for a Self-contained (plug-in) spa or hot tub; however, a site plan must be submitted with the electrical permit application. <p>C. A listed safety cover meeting ASTM standards must cover all spas or hot tubs, when not in use.</p>		
Interpretation/Policy No. BCP11-04	Date March 1, 2011	Division Chief Hadi Mansouri 