



CODE TOPICS

2020 FBC 7th ED SECTION 454.2- RESIDENTIAL POOLS

HEAT LOSS COVERS

TOPIC BACKGROUND

Recall a couple code revisions ago, the energy code required a heated pool to have provide a cover to prevent heat loss. Then the code changed to allow liquid or chemical products “proven to prevent heat loss” to be used. Often pool plans with heatpumps for heaters include the call out for the heat loss cover. However, heatpumps are EXCLUDED from that requirement.

WHAT THE CODE SAYS

What the 2020 FBC-Energy Conservation, 7th ED says:

Commercial Energy Efficiency:

C404.9.3Covers.

Outdoor heated swimming pools and outdoor permanent spas shall be equipped with a vapor-retardant cover on or at the water surface or a liquid cover or other means proven to reduce heat loss.

Exception: Where more than 70 percent of the energy for heating, computed over an operating season, is from site-recovered energy such as from a heat pump or solar energy source, covers or other vapor-retardant means shall not be required.

Residential Energy Efficiency:

R403.10.3Covers.

Outdoor heated swimming pools and outdoor permanent spas shall be equipped with a vapor-retardant cover on or at the water surface or a liquid cover or other means proven to reduce heat loss.

Exception: Where more than 70 percent of the energy for heating, computed over an operation season, is from site-recovered energy, such as from a heat pump or solar energy source, covers or other vapor-retardant means shall not be required.

REQUIRED AT PLAN REVIEW

If a gas heater is proposed on the pool or spa plan, there needs to be a call out that a heat loss cover will be provided, and typically a product sheet is included in the package.

REQUIRED DURING INSPECTION

The heat loss product needs to be on site at the Final Inspection.

Disclaimer: This is offered as summary and guidance on code requirements. This does not authorize a code violation.

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