



CODE TOPICS

2020 FBC 7th ED, SECTION 454.2, RESIDENTIAL POOLS

STEP ACCESS INTO SPA

TOPIC BACKGROUND

It may not have been obvious but safe access into residential spas is required and basically just like pools, the user needs maximum 12" from deck to safely access a spa. For your typical 18" water depth on the bench the spa must be raised 11.5" from the deck. Otherwise there must be a step on the spa bench.

WHAT THE CODE SAYS

ANSI/APAP/ICC-3 2014 SPA Standard, Section 5.6.1 Entry/Exit:

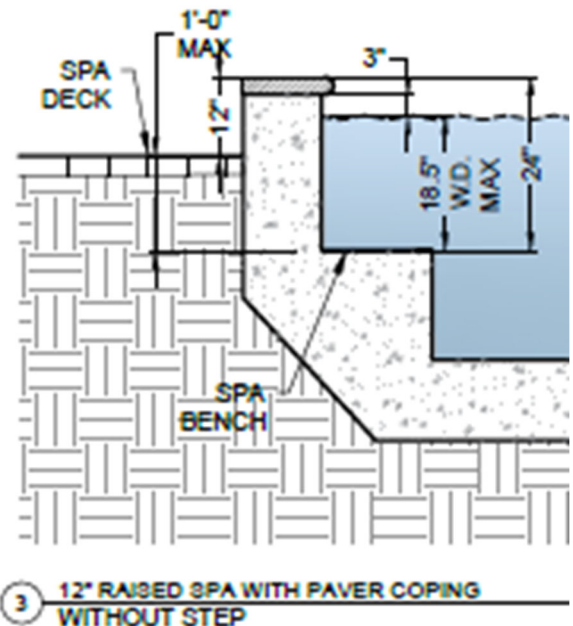
5.6.2.1 Treads shall have a minimum unobstructed horizontal depth of 10 in. (254 mm) and a minimum unobstructed walking surface area of 240 sq in. (1548 cm²).

5.6.2.2 All risers at the centerline, except for the bottom riser, shall have a maximum uniform height of 12 in. (305 mm).

5.6.2.3 The bottom riser height is allowed to vary to the floor.

5.6.2.5 The vertical distance from the spa or swim spa coping, deck, or step surface to the uppermost tread shall be a maximum of 12 in. (305 mm).

This means that for a standard coping on the spa beam, and 18" water depth on the bench, the minimum rise from the deck is 11.5" for that max 12" from deck to bench without an added step on the bench.



REQUIRED AT PLAN REVIEW

First, the plan must be clear as to the relative elevation of the spa. Then if the spa is flush or raised less than 12" it needs to show a spa step on the bench with callout "minimum 240 Sq In" or obvious dimensions of at least 16"x16" or a shape with the minimum area and a minimum 10" tread depth at some point.

REQUIRED DURING INSPECTION

The spa step should be verified at the deck inspection so the contractor has the opportunity to correct before plastering the spa. Regardless, at final inspection, verify a step is in place or measure bench to beam and deck to beam to determine if there is violation of the maximum 12" from deck to bench for spa entry. A step may need to be added.

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

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3990 SR 64 E / BRADENTON, FLORIDA 34208 / 941-749-0311
CA 27189