



CODE TOPICS

2020 FBC 7th ED, SECTION 454.2, RESIDENTIAL POOLS

SUN SHELF WATER DEPTH

TOPIC BACKGROUND

Sun shelves are a popular feature in residential pools. Each of your customers have their own opinion of what the water depth should be for their use. However, when the sun shelf is also serving as the top step for the entry to the pool, the maximum water depth is determined by the maximum 12" riser from the deck to the sun shelf as the top step. If the sun shelf is located so its not part of the pool entry, the maximum depth would likely be 24" before it would have to start meeting codes as a "pool floor."

WHAT THE CODE SAYS

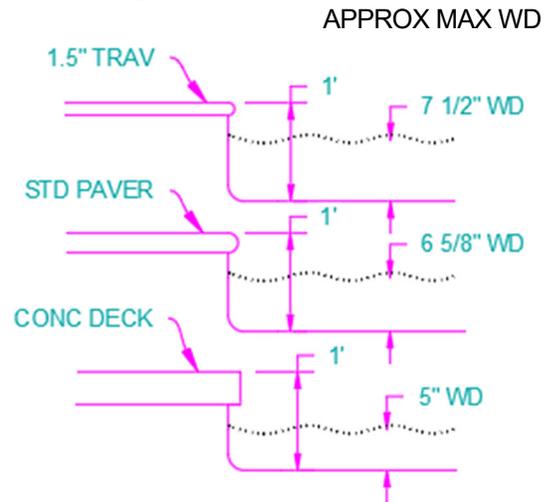
When the Sun Shelf is also the first step of the step entry at the shallow end of the pool, ANSI/APAP/ICC-5 2011 Section 6 Entry/Exit applies:

6.2.2 All risers shall have a maximum uniform height of 12 in. (305 mm), except the top riser, which may vary but shall not exceed 12 in. (305 mm).

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

This means that depending on the coping the water depth on the sun shelf as the first step may be less than what is expected by your customer. For standard coping 6.5", for 1.5" travertine coping 7.5", or for concrete overpour 5".

If the sun shelf is part of pool entry and water depth is to be deeper than described here, add a step on the sun shelf.



REQUIRED AT PLAN REVIEW

When you have a sun shelf on the plan at the shallow end step area and its obvious it is the first step, CALL OUT THE WATER DEPTH so the customer and reviewer knows what to expect and to guide the shoot crew to be clear how to build it.

REQUIRED DURING INSPECTION

If the first step is found to exceed 12" it will need to be corrected.

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