INFORMATION BULLETIN

IB-008

Eff: 04-16-2008 Rev: 01-24-2025

Backfill of Swimming Pool or Spa

This Information Bulletin (IB) establish the requirements for the backfilling of existing residential or commercial swimming pools or spas. The method of backfilling approved by the Building and Safety Bureau (BAS) depends on the intended future use of the fill. A pool or spa may be backfilled with structural compacted fill suitable for the support of footings or the pool or spa shell may be left in-place and backfilled with uncertified fill. In either case, a grading permit is required.

PART I. BACKFILLING WITH STRUCTURAL COMPACTED FILL

A. Requirements for Placement of Structural Compacted Fill. In accordance with the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) §18.75.050.E, all material used to backfill swimming pools or spas shall be placed on natural undisturbed material or approved compacted fill, and compacted to a minimum of 90 percent relative compaction in accordance with ASTM D 1557. Such fill shall be tested for relative compaction by an accredited soil testing agency recognized and approved by the BAS. A compaction report shall be submitted to the BAS for review before an approval of any fill is given.

1. A grading permit shall be obtained with the total cubic yards of fill specified.

2. The pool or spa shell shall be removed from the site.

3. Existing gas/plumbing line(s) shall be properly capped; electrical and related equipment shall be removed.

4. The bottom of the excavation shall be inspected and approved by the BAS and a geotechnical engineer, if required, prior to placing of compacted fill.

5. A compaction report shall be submitted to the BAS for review and approval.

6. No foundation, if proposed, shall be constructed before the compaction report is approved.

7. When required or provided, a soil report prepared by a geotechnical engineer and containing recommendations for temporary excavation, grading specifications and allowable bearing pressure for the foundation design shall be submitted to the BAS for review and approval.

B. Inspections. In accordance with the LBMC §18.07.050.E, the BAS shall be notified when the grading operation is ready for each of the following inspections:

1. Bottom/excavation inspection; and

2. Final inspection.

PART II. BACKFILLING WITH UNCERTIFIED FILL AND LEAVING THE POOL OR SPA SHELL IN-PLACE

A. Conditions of Approval. Leaving the pool or spa shell in-place and backfilling with uncertified fill may be allowed in self-contained areas where the fills are not to be used to support buildings or structures and no hazards will be created as determined by the BAS.

1. A grading permit shall be obtained with the total cubic yards of fill specified. The grading permit shall indicate that the fill is uncertified.

2. A Plot Plan form shall be completed and provided that shows the pool or spa location and distances to all buildings and property lines will be required (see page 3 for example).

3. The Plot Plan form shall include the following notes:

   - Two drainage holes, a minimum of 24 inches in diameter, shall be provided in the concrete in the pool or spa bottom, a maximum of 8 feet apart to facilitate drainage. One hole shall be located in the deepest section of the pool shell.

   - Backfill shall consist of clean soil or gravel and shall be moistened and tractor rolled or tamped with a whacker into place.

4. The backfilled area shall be used for landscaping purpose only.

5. AFF-005 Maintenance of Uncertified Fill as provided by the BAS must be completed. The BAS' approval of the document must be obtained prior to filing with the County Recorder and a certified copy of the recorded document is required prior to the issuance of the grading permit. Refer to Information Bulletin IB-007 Preparing Covenant and Agreement for additional information.

6. The existing pool or spa shall not be located on ground sloping steeper than 10 percent. If the pool is located on ground sloping steeper than 10 percent, then the backfilling procedures in Part I of this IB shall be followed.

7. Existing gas/plumbing line(s) shall be properly capped; electrical and related equipment shall be removed.

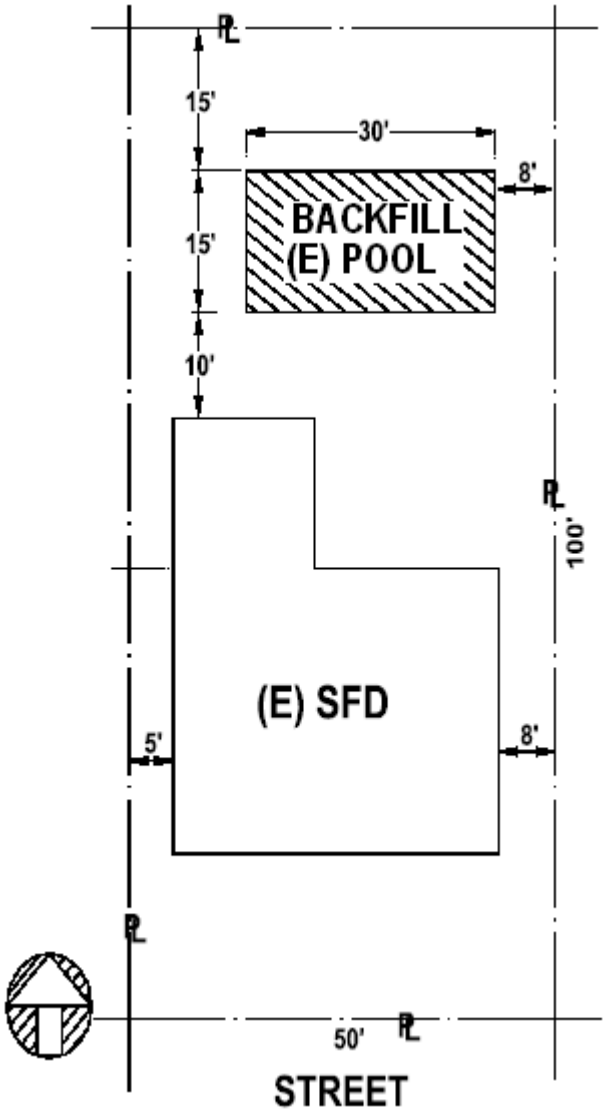
8. Prior to placing any fill, obtain inspection approval for the required two drainage holes.

9. If bond beam is demolished, the concrete debris from the bond beam may be placed in the bottom of the pool to facilitate drainage; provided however, that no concrete debris less than 6 inches in diameter, including coping, are placed within the two drainage holes.

B. Inspections. In accordance with the LBMC §18.07.050.E, the BAS shall be notified when the grading operation is ready for each of the following inspections:

1. Bottom inspection after required drainage holes have been made and prior to placing any fill; and

2. Final inspection.



EXAMPLE OF REQUIRED PLOT PLAN