



**Everyone in the pool!**

***“Swimming is the fourth most popular sports activity in the United States and a good way to get regular aerobic physical activity.”<sup>1</sup>***

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2022, February 18). Healthy swimming: Health benefits of swimming. [https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/swimmers/health\\_benefits\\_water\\_exercise.html](https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/swimmers/health_benefits_water_exercise.html)

For more about specific ADA requirements for swimming pools, visit the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, Sections 242 and 1009, at [www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADAStandards/2010ADA-standards.htm#c2](http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADAStandards/2010ADA-standards.htm#c2)

# ADA Requirements for Swimming Pool Lifts

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities in all aspects of community life, including recreation. Some people with disabilities require a pool lift to get in a swimming pool. Given how important these lifts are, we have summarized below the key requirements for pool lifts from the *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design* at [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov). (For information about other accessible means of pool entry, please see our *Other Means of Swimming Pool Access* fact sheet.)

## How Many Lifts?

- Pools with less than 300 linear feet of pool wall require only one lift.
- Pools with over 300 linear feet of pool wall require at least two lifts if lifts are the chosen second means of access into the water.

## Location, Location, Location!

- Lifts must be on an accessible route. This route must be at least 36 inches wide with enough clear floor space that is at least 36 inches wide and 48 inches long for maneuvering to access and use the lift.
- Lifts should be installed where the water depth is no greater than 48 inches, as this will allow someone standing in the water to provide assistance, while also being deep enough for buoyancy.
- Lifts must be available for use whenever the pool is open. This essentially means that lifts must be fixed in place, so as to avoid a lift being moved while someone is in the pool who will need it. A lift provides an accessible way out, and not having it available can create a very dangerous situation.

## Additional Details & Dimensions

- Lifts must have seats and footrests; armrests are preferable but not required.
- The seat height must be between 16 inches and 19 inches measured to the top of the seat, and the seat must be at least 16 inches wide.
- Lifts must support at least 300 pounds.
- Lifts must submerge to at least 18 inches under the water.
- Someone entering or exiting the pool must be able to use the lift controls independently.

**Learn more about the ADA: [www.NortheastADA.org](http://www.NortheastADA.org) | 1.800.949.4232 | [NortheastADA@Cornell.edu](mailto:NortheastADA@Cornell.edu)**

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