

IS MY POOL SAFE?

FAULTY UNDERWATER POOL LIGHTS CAN KILL

Miami-Dade County unveils a new reduced permit fee to help prevent serious injuries caused by faulty underwater pool lights.

MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER) Department
Permitting Inspection Center
11805 SW 26th Street Miami, Fl. 33175
Phone: 786-315-2100



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REGULATORY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES (RER) DEPARTMENT
www.miamidade.gov/economy

THE DANGER

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, an ungrounded and neglected 120 volt underwater pool light could energize pool water with lethal levels of electricity.

And, since 1990, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has reported 60 electrocutions and nearly 50 serious electrical shocks involving electrical hazards in and around swimming pools. Thirteen of the 60 electrocutions were from faulty underwater pool lights. Unfortunately, this type of incident also struck the Miami-Dade County community with the tragic death of 7-year-old boy, Calder Sloan, in April 2014. To help prevent additional death or injuries, residents are encouraged to change existing 120 volt pool lights to a safer low voltage pool light.



THE SOLUTION

On October 7, 2014, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners passed the Swimming Pool Light Ordinance 14-95. The Ordinance modifies two sections of the Florida Building Code, which apply to underwater pool lights and provides residential pools the same level of lighting requirements and protection that are applicable to commercial pools.

The Ordinance requires that a low voltage light be used for all new pools with underwater pool lights.

Existing pools with lights are also required to meet the new low voltage requirements at the time of repair or alteration of an existing pool light. This legislation will provide positive impact on existing pools built prior to 1984 that may present the greatest potential risk.

Additionally, the ordinance allows the option to not have an underwater pool light.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY REDUCED THE **SWIMMING POOL LIGHT PERMIT FEE** FROM \$130 TO **\$65**



THE PROCESS

Miami-Dade County has established a reduced permit fee of \$65 to change an existing pool light(s) to a low voltage light(s) at residences located in Unincorporated Miami-Dade County. Alternatively, the permit fee to remove a pool light without replacing it is also \$65. To obtain the swimming pool light permit simply:

- Have a licensed and insured electrical contractor submit a permit application for your residential swimming pool online at www.miamidade.gov/permit/e-permitting.asp or in person at the Permitting Inspection Center located at 11805 SW 26th Street Miami, Fl. 33175.
- Staff from the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department (RER), Building Division will confirm the applicant is a licensed and insured electrical contractor. Once confirmed and paid for, a reduced fee permit will be issued.
- When the work is completed, an RER Electrical Inspector will conduct an inspection and confirm code compliance.



⚠ NO COST OPTION ⚠

Simply disconnect the power to the underwater pool light at the electrical panel.

ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS

- Electrical pool equipment and underwater lights must be properly maintained.
- Never attempt to do your own electrical work.
- Never allow pool maintenance workers to perform electrical work. It's dangerous, illegal and can be fatal. Always get a licensed electrician to do electrical work.
- Never use electrically powered appliances near a pool, unless the equipment is approved for water use.
- Don't position outdoor lights where they could fall or slide into the pool.
- Contact a licensed electrical contractor to perform regular electrical maintenance service.
- Keep rescue equipment near the pool. **Call 911 in case of an emergency.**