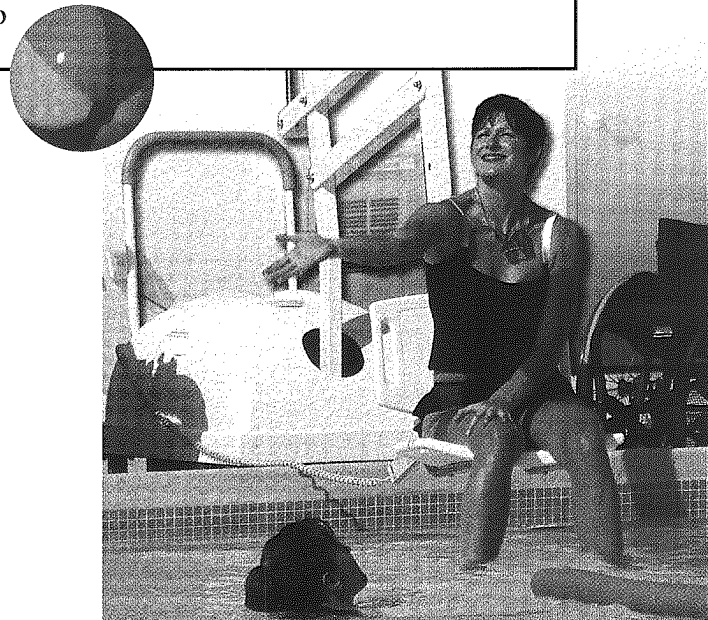


Summary of Pool and Spa Access Requirements Under the U.S. Access Board Final Rule on Recreational Facilities

The final ADA guidelines, published September 3, 2002, provide five distinct alternatives for providing individuals with disabilities access to pools and spas. Below is a description of each of these alternatives and summary of their recommended use in different pool applications.

Access Alternative	Definition
Pool Lifts	Equipment operating above the pool deck that uses an independent power source to lower and raise people into the water. People transfer onto the lift seat from their wheel chair on the pool deck.
Sloped Entry	Similar to ramps that provide access into buildings, sloped entries are either designed into a pool or added afterwards with a separate ramp attachment. Individuals with disabilities typically transfer onto an aquatic wheelchair. An assistant pushes them up and down the sloped entry.
Stairs	Similar to normal stairs, pool access stairs have handrails for added support for individuals with disabilities that are ambulatory. The stairs are designed into a pool or added through a separate stair attachment.
Transfer Systems	Typically, transfer systems consist of a platform and have either a series of steps or an elevator mechanism. Systems with an elevator mechanism allow a user to roll their aquatic wheel chair onto the platform. The elevator then lowers the entire chair into the pool. Systems that use the transfer steps allow a user to transfer onto a platform. Then, with the use of handrails, lower themselves into the water one step at a time.
Transfer Walls	Transfer walls are designed and built into pools. Transfer walls consist of a trough parallel to the pool wall that allows a user to transfer onto the top of the wall directly from their wheel chair. Once on top of the wall, they then lower themselves into the water.

ADA guidelines recommend that either a pool lift or a sloped entry be used as the primary access method. Larger pools (over 300 linear feet) require a second access method that can be any one of the five access methods described above. Depending on the available space and clientele, some approved access methods are better suited than others. Following is a summary of recommended access methods by pool application.



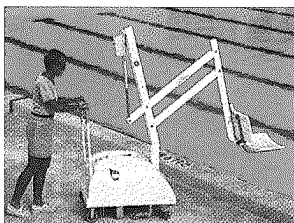
Recommended Access Options

Pool Type	Pool Lifts	Sloped Entry	Stairs	Transfer Systems	Transfer Walls
Swimming Pool (Less than 300 linear ft of pool wall) 1 required method of entry minimum	✓	✓			
Swimming Pool (More than 300 linear ft of pool wall) 2 required methods of entry minimum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spas-1 min required method of entry	✓			✓	✓
Wading pools-1 min method of entry		✓			

In addition to defining and recommending access options, ADA guidelines also provide minimum technical requirements for public access pools and spas to consider when purchasing pool lifts. Below is a summary of those technical requirements for pool lifts:

Pool Lift Technical Specifications Summary

Specification Description	Technical Specification	Reason Given
Pool Lift Location	Maximum water depth of 48 inches.	Allow an individual to provide assistance and stand on pool floor.
Clear Deck Space	36 inch wide by 48-inch deep transfer area that starts 12 inches behind the seat.	Provide enough space for safe transfer onto the lift seat using a variety of transfer methods.
Seat Height	The seat must be able to stop between 16 inches and 19 inches above the pool deck.	Meets the height of most commercial wheelchairs and facilitates transfer to lift seat.
Seat Width	Seat width minimum of 16 inches.	Provide enough seat area to facilitate transfer and support.
Foot and Arm Rests	Footrests are required. Arm rests are optional, but must be foldable or removable when transferring.	Provide added support and balance when seated on lift. No specific measurable requirements.
Operation	Lift must be capable of unassisted operation.	Allow access to the pool without requiring the aid of pool staff.
Submerged Depth	Lift must submerge to 18 inches below water surface minimum.	Provide enough buoyancy to float off the seat unassisted.
Lifting Capacity	Minimum of 300 lbs.	Capacity to lift a large percentage of the population.



This primer is a service to our customers and does not provide all of the detail or language available in the final accessibility guidelines for recreational facilities. For detailed information regarding all accessibility issues, please visit the Access Board at <http://www.access-board.gov>.

For additional questions regarding ADA pool and spa access requirements, contact RMT Aquatics at 1-800-577-4424 or visit www.poollifts.com.