

Louisiana Pool Construction Calls for Earlier Fence Planning

Tony's Fencing & Iron Works outlines how early pool-fence planning can help prevent concrete, drainage, gate and access conflicts.

COVINGTON, LA, UNITED STATES, July 20, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- As Southeast Louisiana homeowners continue planning new swimming pools and backyard renovations, Tony's Fencing & Iron Works is encouraging property owners, pool builders and contractors to discuss the permanent pool fence before finalizing the concrete deck, equipment area, drainage plan and landscaping.



Early pool-fence planning can help coordinate gates, concrete, drainage, landscaping, and equipment access before construction is complete.

Many pool fences are selected near the end of construction. By that point, concrete may already cover preferred post locations, landscaping may obstruct a gate opening and pool equipment may occupy the most practical service-access route. Early coordination gives each contractor an opportunity to identify those conflicts before permanent improvements limit the available solutions.

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Tony Ostrowski, Owner, Tony's Fencing and Iron Works

A pool fence affects more than the appearance of the backyard. Its placement can influence pedestrian access, maintenance routes, drainage, gate operation, visibility, landscaping and the amount of usable deck space around the pool.

“Early fence planning protects the pool layout, preserves access and helps prevent costly changes after crews complete the concrete and landscaping,” said Tony

Ostrowski of Tony's Fencing & Iron Works. “The best results usually come when homeowners treat the fence as part of the original pool design rather than an improvement added to

whatever space remains.”

Pool Fencing Involves Several Construction Phases

A typical pool project may involve excavation crews, plumbers, electricians, concrete contractors, equipment technicians, drainage specialists, landscapers and fence installers. Each trade needs access to the property, and several contractors may need to work near the same sections of the yard.

Excavation and pool placement usually require the widest equipment access. Plumbing, electrical and gas lines may then cross areas where fence posts or gates could eventually sit. Concrete crews establish the permanent deck edge and finished elevation, while landscapers may later add sod, beds, retaining features, irrigation and trees.

Without an agreed fence layout, one contractor can unintentionally create a problem for another. A deck may extend too close to the property line for the proposed fence. A gate may lack room to swing. Underground plumbing may run directly beneath a planned post. A planter or raised bed may create an obstruction beside the barrier.

Reviewing the fence line before those features become permanent can reduce the need for concrete cutting, landscape removal or major changes to the original design.

When Should Pool-Fence Planning Begin?

Fence planning should begin during the pool-design stage or early in construction. Homeowners do not necessarily need to install the permanent barrier before the pool builder completes excavation and other heavy work. However, the fence contractor should review the site before the concrete design becomes final.

An early site review can address:

- The proposed fence perimeter
- Pedestrian and equipment gates
- Gate swing direction
- Deck dimensions and elevations
- Pool-equipment access
- Underground utilities and private lines
- Drainage routes and low areas
- Property boundaries and easements
- Landscaping plans
- Inspection and permit responsibilities

Once the homeowner, pool builder and fence contractor agree on the approximate layout, the

other trades can preserve the required space as construction continues.

Concrete Design Can Affect Fence Installation

Fence posts may sit in soil beside the pool deck, pass through prepared openings or attach to an appropriate concrete mounting area. The most suitable method depends on the fence design, site conditions, deck structure, available space and installation requirements.

When the project calls for posts near or within the concrete, the concrete and fence contractors may need to coordinate post centers, sleeves, block-outs or reinforced sections before the pour. Proper communication also helps crews avoid placing expansion joints, drains or underground lines in incompatible locations.

A finished deck does not automatically prevent fence installation. Installers can often work with existing concrete after evaluating its thickness, condition, reinforcement, edge distance and surrounding utilities. Nevertheless, early planning usually provides more options and can reduce the amount of drilling or modification required.

Concrete also gains strength gradually. The appropriate time for drilling or anchoring depends on the mix, weather, slab design and mounting method. Homeowners should ask the concrete contractor and fence installer to agree on the installation date instead of relying on a universal waiting period.

Gate Placement Requires More Than Choosing a Convenient Opening

The gate often becomes the most frequently used part of a pool barrier. Family members, guests, pool-service technicians and maintenance crews may all rely on it.

A practical gate needs enough room to open, close and latch without contacting steps, furniture, planters, walls or sloped surfaces. The opening should also accommodate the largest equipment that may need future access, including filters, pumps, heaters, service carts or renovation materials.

Deck elevation and ground clearance require equal attention. A gate that operates correctly during construction may begin dragging after contractors install sod, mulch or pavers. Conversely, removing soil after installation may create a larger opening beneath the gate.

For those reasons, installers should base the final gate adjustment on completed surfaces and the anticipated landscaping plan.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends protective barriers around residential pools and emphasizes self-closing, self-latching gates as part of a broader safety approach. Physical barriers do not replace active supervision, water-safety education or other

protective measures. Property owners should confirm the requirements that apply to their address with the appropriate local authority.

Louisiana Rainfall Makes Drainage Planning Important

Drainage can influence long-term fence and gate performance. Southeast Louisiana properties may receive runoff from roofs, patios, neighboring lots and large areas of concrete. Water can move differently after crews reshape the yard or add a pool deck.

A fence line that appears dry during an estimate may cross a drainage route during a heavy storm. Flowing water can erode soil around posts, deposit mulch beneath a gate or create a low area that affects clearance.

Before finalizing the layout, contractors should identify:

- Deck and channel drains
- Catch basins
- Swales and low areas
- Downspout outlets
- French drains
- Retaining features
- Areas of recurring standing water
- Discharge routes from pool equipment

The finished fence should allow the drainage system to function without directing water toward the home, pool or neighboring property.

Landscaping Can Create Unexpected Barrier Problems

Homeowners often plan palms, hedges, raised beds, decorative walls and outdoor furniture around a new pool. Those features can improve the backyard, but their location matters.

Dense landscaping may block visual inspection of the fence or interfere with gate movement. Trees and large shrubs can expand into the opening over time. Raised beds, planters, furniture and decorative structures may also create unintended footholds near the barrier.

Irrigation deserves attention as well. Repeated sprinkler spray can keep soil wet around posts and gate foundations. Mulch may wash into the opening during storms, while aggressive roots can influence nearby surfaces as plants mature.

Leaving appropriate clearance around the fence helps contractors maintain the barrier and allows homeowners to inspect gate hardware, posts and lower openings more easily.

Temporary Protection During Construction

An unfinished pool site may contain an open excavation, partially filled pool, exposed reinforcement and unsecured access points. Homeowners should discuss temporary site protection with the pool builder before excavation begins.

Temporary construction fencing, warning signs and controlled access may help reduce exposure during the project. However, temporary measures do not automatically satisfy the permanent barrier requirements for a completed pool.

Before the pool enters normal use, the responsible parties should confirm that the permanent fence, gates, locks, alarms, covers or other required protective features are complete and ready for inspection.

DIY Pool-Fence Planning Tips

Homeowners can improve the planning process without attempting professional fence installation or drilling near utilities.

1. Photograph the Yard After Heavy Rain

Photos taken during or shortly after a storm can reveal standing water, runoff paths and soil erosion that may not appear during dry weather.

2. Gather the Property Survey

A current survey can help identify property boundaries, servitudes and other areas that may influence the fence layout. The homeowner should resolve boundary uncertainty before construction.

3. Save Pool and Deck Drawings

Provide the fence contractor with the planned pool shape, deck dimensions, equipment location and elevations. Updated drawings are more useful than preliminary sketches.

4. Mark Doors and Walking Routes

Identify every door, patio and walkway that provides access to the pool. Consider how family members, visitors and service professionals will move through the property.

5. Measure Equipment Access

Record the width of large pool equipment, outdoor furniture and service carts that may need to

pass through a gate. Planning for future replacement work can prevent an opening from becoming too narrow.

6. Photograph Private Lines Before They Are Covered

Take clear photos of pool plumbing, gas lines, electrical conduits, irrigation and drains while they remain visible. Include reference points that may help contractors understand their approximate locations later.

7. Review the Landscaping Plan

Mark proposed trees, beds, walls, planters, grills, storage boxes and seating areas. Keep the gate path open and avoid placing climbable objects beside the barrier.

8. Confirm Project Responsibilities

Ask who will obtain permits, schedule inspections and communicate required corrections. Written responsibilities can reduce confusion near the end of construction.

9. Request Utility Marking Before Digging

Louisiana 811 coordinates marking requests for participating public utilities. Privately installed lines, including some pool, irrigation or electrical systems, may require separate locating arrangements.

10. Test the Gate From Several Positions

After installation, open the gate fully, halfway and only a few inches. Confirm that it closes and latches each time without a push.

Maintenance Tips After Installation

Pool gates and fences require routine observation even after contractors complete the project.

Homeowners should periodically look for loose hardware, corrosion, damaged pickets, soil erosion, plant interference and changes in clearance. Storms, ground movement, landscape work and repeated use can affect gate alignment.

The following maintenance practices can help identify problems:

Remove mulch, leaves and debris from the gate path.

Trim plants that interfere with the fence or latch.

Check that the latch engages fully.

Watch for soil erosion around posts.

Avoid tying furniture, decorations or equipment to the fence.

Examine the barrier after severe weather.

Arrange professional repairs when a gate no longer closes properly.

Painted or coated metal fences may also require occasional cleaning and finish maintenance.

Pool chemicals, irrigation and coastal humidity can contribute to surface wear, so homeowners should follow the installer's care recommendations.

Frequently Asked Questions

-When should the fence contractor visit a new pool project?

The contractor should review the property during design or early construction. That timing provides an opportunity to coordinate the fence with the deck, equipment, drainage and landscaping before crews complete permanent work.

-Should the permanent fence go up before excavation?

Usually, heavy equipment needs open access during excavation and pool placement. The contractors can establish the future fence line early and install the permanent barrier after disruptive construction ends.

-Does the fence go in before or after the pool deck?

Either sequence may work. The answer depends on post locations, mounting methods, deck design and site conditions. Even when installation occurs later, the installer should review the layout before the concrete pour.

-Can contractors install a pool fence through an existing concrete deck?

They may be able to do so after evaluating the slab, reinforcement, edge distance, underground lines and anchoring method. Not every section of concrete provides a suitable mounting location.

-How long should new concrete cure before fence installation?

No single waiting period applies to every project. The concrete contractor and fence installer should determine when the slab can support the planned drilling or anchoring method.

-How wide should a pool gate be?

The gate should support normal pedestrian traffic and the largest expected maintenance equipment. Hardware, weight, post strength, accessibility and local requirements may also affect

the final width.

-Should a pool gate swing away from the water?

Many pool-safety standards call for gates to open away from the pool, but homeowners should confirm the requirements for their specific jurisdiction and project.

-Can the house serve as part of the pool barrier?

Some layouts use a portion of the home as part of the barrier. Doors, windows, alarms, locks and other protective measures may then require additional consideration.

-Does an above-ground pool need a fence?

Above-ground pools may still require a barrier or controlled access. The answer can depend on pool-wall height, ladders, steps, decks and local regulations.

-Can landscaping go in before the pool fence?

Completing the fence first often prevents plants, irrigation and landscape edging from interfering with post installation, gates and inspections.

-Who handles the fence permit?

Responsibility varies by contract and location. The homeowner, pool builder or fence contractor may handle different parts of the process. The parties should confirm responsibilities in writing.

-Do homeowner-association rules replace local requirements?

No. An HOA may impose separate design standards, but those standards do not replace applicable municipal or parish requirements.

-What happens when the yard slopes?

A sloped yard may require stepped or racked panels, adjusted post placement and careful control of openings beneath the fence. Gate locations require particular attention on changing grades.

-Can a pool cover replace a fence?

A cover may provide an additional layer of protection, but it may not replace a required barrier. Homeowners should verify local requirements before relying on any single safety measure.

-How often should a pool gate be tested?

Homeowners should test it regularly and after storms, soil movement, landscaping work, repairs or heavy use. The gate should close and latch from several open positions.

-What should homeowners do when a gate begins dragging?

Remove temporary debris first, but do not disable the closing or latching hardware. A qualified fence professional can evaluate settlement, erosion, hinge adjustment and post alignment.

-Can pool equipment sit against the fence?

Equipment should not interfere with the barrier, gate operation or required clearances. Contractors should also preserve enough space for inspection, service and future replacement.

-Why should private lines be located separately?

Public utility marking programs may not identify homeowner-installed pool plumbing, irrigation, landscape lighting or other private systems. Contractors need accurate information before digging.

Local Considerations Across Southeast Louisiana

Permitting and inspection procedures can differ among incorporated cities and unincorporated parish areas. A project in Covington may follow a different process than one in Mandeville, Madisonville, Slidell, Hammond, Ponchatoula or a nearby unincorporated community.

Flood zones, drainage servitudes, corner lots, subdivision restrictions, historic districts and homeowner associations may add further considerations. Property owners should obtain information specific to the project address rather than assuming that another neighborhood follows the same process.

Tony's Fencing & Iron Works serves homeowners throughout St. Tammany Parish, Tangipahoa Parish and surrounding Southeast Louisiana communities. Services include pool fencing, ornamental iron fencing, custom gates, wood fencing, vinyl fencing, chain-link fencing, brick columns and handrails.

Near the end of the planning process, homeowners can review the company's educational resource about the [pool fence installation timeline in Louisiana](#) and request an on-site estimate by calling (985) 703-0595.

About Tony's Fencing & Iron Works

Tony's Fencing & Iron Works provides residential and commercial fencing, custom gates and ornamental ironwork throughout Southeast Louisiana. The company works with homeowners, builders, businesses and property managers to plan fencing solutions around each property's access, drainage, appearance and functional needs.

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