

Relocate Pool

Overview

- Above-ground pools can be moved out of the path of potential flood waters by moving them to an area on the property above the Base Flood Elevation line (BFE).
- In addition to the high likelihood of the pool being damaged or destroyed during a flooding event, above-ground pools can be a hazard during flooding events. Swimming pools can alter flooding conditions by increasing wave and/or debris impact forces for the structure and/or neighboring structures.
- If there is sufficient, unoccupied space on the property above the BFE, the above-ground pool could be moved to a location with less flood risk.
- If there is not sufficient, unoccupied space on the property that is above the BFE, it may be safer to remove the pool completely or install a new elevated pool rather than re-install the original pool.

Movement Considerations:

- Above-ground pools should be moved carefully.
- The pool should be drained prior to moving the pool.
- After draining, the pool should be thoroughly inspected to ensure there is no existing damage to be exacerbated by movement.
- The pool, associated supports, or decking should be completely disassembled before movement.
- All mechanical parts and liner of the pool should be cleaned prior to movement.
- The yard area in the new pool location may need to be graded prior to placement.
- Electrical outlets/panels may need to be installed.



Key Takeaways

During flood events, water can cause extensive damage to any structure within the floodplain, including above-ground pools.

Above-ground pools can be severely damaged or destroyed in flooding events. Additionally, they can become a hazard during a flooding event.

In order to minimize damage costs and flood risks, above-ground pools can be moved to a different location above the BFE on the property, if such a location exists.



I-ADAPT

Exterior Adaptation

Relocate Pool

Estimated Costs/Benefits

*U.S. dollars (2022), estimates are subject to change

Potential Costs		Potential Benefits	
Item	Estimate	Post-Flood Recovery Actions	Estimate
New electrical panel installation*	\$500-\$4,000	Pool and debris removal	\$400-\$5,000
Re-grade lawn in new pool area	\$500-\$1,000		
Contractor labor*	\$700-\$2,000	New pool	\$1,500-\$6,000
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST *if necessary	\$500-\$7,000	ESTIMATED TOTAL SAVINGS	\$1,900-\$11,000

Expected Maintenance

- Regular pool maintenance.

Additional Resources

- [FEMA P-348: Protecting Building Utility Systems from Flood Damage](#)
- [FEMA P-499: Home Builder's Guide to Coastal Construction](#)
- [FEMA: Swimming Pools](#)

Resources can also be found at <https://de.gov/iadapt>

Additional Actions

- May need to re-grade lawn in the new pool location prior to moving the pool.
- The original pool location may need to be landscaped after the pool is moved.
- New electrical outlets/lines may need to be installed depending on the new location of the pool.
- If the pool is attached to a deck, the deck will likely need to be moved to the new pool location or renovated.

Permitting Agencies

Contacts for permitting requirements include but are not limited to the following:

- Your city and/or county government for local flood ordinances or regulations
- Your city and/or county government for building permits
- [DNREC Coastal Construction Permit](#)

Who to Contact

- Design professional or engineer
- Pool company

Technical definitions and more information are located on the I-ADAPT website: <https://de.gov/iadapt>.



This information is intended to be used for planning purposes. It is not intended to substitute or take precedence over the guidance of design engineers, contractors, utility companies or regulatory agencies.

For more information, contact DNREC's Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy at DNREC_IADAPT@Delaware.gov

