



# Building and Safety Division • Public Information

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency • [http://www.ventura.org/rma/build\\_safe](http://www.ventura.org/rma/build_safe)  
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## ACCEPTABLE GRASPABLE POOL HANDHOLDS

### INTRODUCTION:

Section 41.2.6 of the VCBC requires grab bars, handrails, or other equivalent devices to be installed in areas of private swimming pools when the distance between the water line at the pool edge and the deck above exceeds 12 inches vertically. This provision of the VCBC does not contain specific dimensional guidelines for construction of these devices. The following may be used as a guideline for field inspectors and contractors for the construction of private pools.

### GENERAL:

Grab bars, handholds or benches shall be provided in private pools where there is more than 12 inches in height from the water line to the deck or top of wall above and the pool depth below the water line exceeds 24 inches at that point. The following text and graphics represent acceptable configurations.

### GRAB BARS AND HANDRAILS:

A handrail or grab bar may meet this requirement if it is not more than 12 inches above the water line, subject to the following conditions:

Grab bars and handrails shall be not less than 1 ¼ inches in diameter and not more than 2 inches in diameter. They shall provide a minimum hand clearance between the bar and the surface of the wall of at least 1 ½ inches. They shall be firmly affixed in place. Grab bars and handrails shall be continuous throughout the area where required.

### HANDHOLDS:

Handholds may meet the requirements subject to the following minimum conditions:  
Handholds shall be installed within 12 inches above the water line. The minimum thickness for a handhold shall not be less than 1 ¼ inches and the maximum thickness shall not exceed 3 5/8 inches.

The minimum clear horizontal projection of the handhold outward from the pool wall shall not be less than 3 inches on the top of the handhold and 1 ½ inches on the underside of the handhold.

Handholds may be made of the same coping materials as are used elsewhere for the pool edge. They may be brick, flagstone, rock, concrete, pavers or similar materials. Handholds shall provide a non-slip surface.

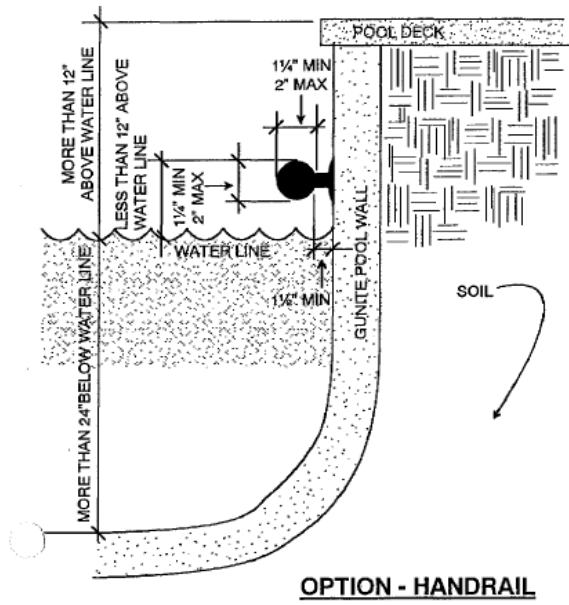
### BENCHES:

Benches not more than 24 inches below the water surface and projecting not less than 16 inches from the face of the pool wall above the bench may be used in lieu of grab bars and handholds.

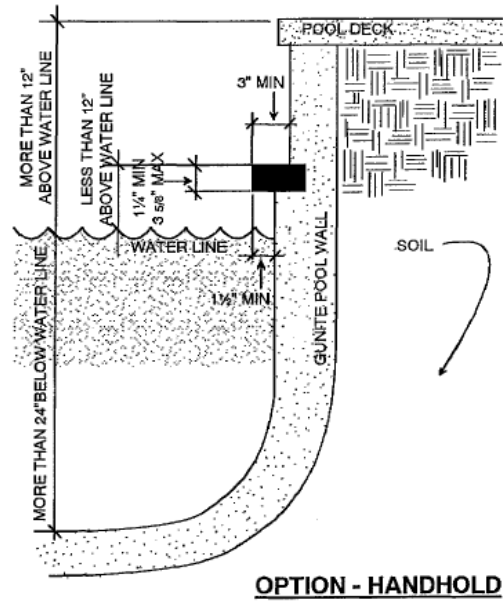
### EXCEPTION:

When graspable perimeter overflow troughs are used, grab bars, handrails or benches will not be required.

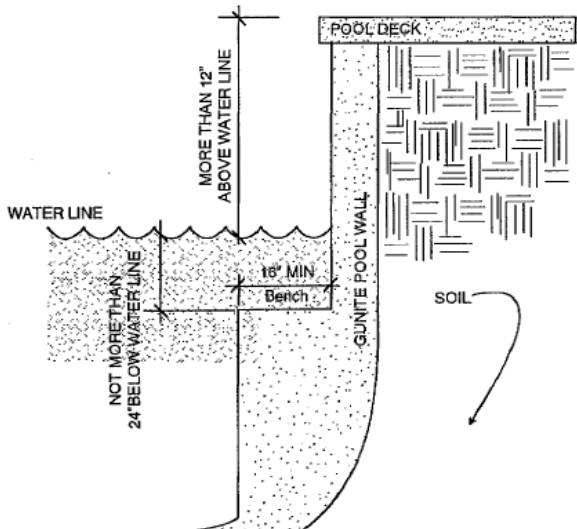
# ACCEPTABLE CONFIGURATIONS OF GRASPABLE HANDHOLDS FOR PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS



**OPTION - HANDRAIL**



**OPTION - HANDHOLD**



**OPTION - BENCH**