

2019 California Electrical Code, Section 680.26

What is Equipotential Bonding for Swimming Pools?

Establishing an electrically safe environment in and around permanently installed swimming pools requires the creation of an equipotential grid. The sole purpose of an equipotential grid is to create an area with no significant difference in voltage between objects that can be touched simultaneously. Examples of objects at a pool that can be touched simultaneously include the concrete decking, ladders, handrails, light fixtures, drains, and the pool water. An equipotential grid is created by intentionally connecting all these objects together electrically, otherwise known as bonding them together.

What parts of a swimming pool require bonding in Vinyl liner pools and Fiber glass pools?

Section 680.26(B) of the 2019 California Electric Code (CEC) requires bonding by installing one minimum 8 AWG bare solid copper conductor. The conductor shall follow the contour of the perimeter surface within 18 to 24 inches from the inside walls of the pool. The required conductor shall be secured within or under the perimeter surface 4 to 6 inches below subgrade.

