

Child Resistant Doors

Some older swimming pools might include doors as part of the pool fence or barrier. This is no longer allowed in the building of new pools.

If you have a door that forms part of a pool barrier, does it self close?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Install a door that self closes.
If you have a door that forms part of a pool barrier, does it self latch?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Install a door that self latches.
If you have a door that forms part of a pool barrier, is the latching device located at least 150cm off the ground?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Install a door where the latching device is at least 150cm off the ground.
If you have a door that forms part of a pool barrier, have you made sure there are no footholds wider than 1cm on the door or its frame between the floor and 100cm above the floor?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Install a door that has no footholds within 1m of the floor level.
If you have a door that forms part of a pool barrier, have you made sure there are no pet doors?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Remove all pet doors from any doors that form part of a pool barrier.

Above Ground Pools and Inflatable Pools

If you have an above ground pool, does it have a fence?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Install a fence.
If you have an inflatable pool that is capable of being filled with 30cm of water, does it have a fence?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Install a fence.

Spa Pools

Does your spa pool have a fence around it?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Install a fence OR you must ensure that the spa is covered and secured by a lockable child-safe structure (such as a door, lid, grille or mesh) when the spa is not in use.
Have you checked that all electrical components and pumps meet electrical safety requirements and are properly covered?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Check that your spa is marked with a mandatory electrical safety approval number or a Regulatory Compliance Mark. This mark usually includes a capital letter for your state or territory in Australia (for example, N for NSW), and a certificate number.
Do you have a CPR sign near your spa that is in good condition and can be read from a distance of 3 metres?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Buy and install a CPR sign from your local Pool Shop, Council or Community Organisations such as St John Ambulance the Australian Red Cross or The Royal Life Saving Society.

For more information please visit www.kidshealth.chw.edu.au/projects/drowning-prevention/swimming-pool-fencing



Protect Your Pool, Protect Your Kids Checklist

In NSW, an average of 11 children under five years of age drown annually, with a further 62 children being admitted to hospital each year for near drowning. Children under five years of age have the highest mortality rate out of any age group, with approximately 70% of drowning deaths occurring in swimming pools.

Pool fencing gives added protection by preventing access to the pool area. However, inadequate pool fencing continues to be a major contributing factor in the rate of drowning among children under five years of age.

All pool owners should check their swimming pool regularly throughout the year, especially in the months leading up to summer.

Please be aware that pool fencing legislation is different in all the states and territories within Australia and this checklist relates to NSW only.



Swimming Pool Laws and Your Circumstances

The legislation that is referred to in this checklist includes *The Swimming Pools Act 1992*, *Swimming Pools Regulation 2008*, the *Australian Standards 1926.1*, *Australian Standards 2610.1*, and *Australian Standards 2610.2*.

The requirements for child-resistant barriers vary depending on when the pool was built and where the pool is located:

For pools built before 1 August 1990.

Access to the pool from the house must be restricted at all times. Windows and doors may form part of the barrier, but they must be compliant.

For pools built after 1 August 1990 but before 1 July 2010.

The pool must be surrounded by a fence that separates the pool from the house. Some exemptions apply to pools on very small properties (less than 230 square metres), large properties (2 hectares or over) and those on waterfront properties.

For pools built after 1 July 2010.

All new pools must be surrounded by a fence that separates the pool from the house.

New Swimming Pools

Does the pool have temporary fencing around it while it is being built?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Install temporary fencing.
Have you spoken to your local council about where your permanent fence is going to be located?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Contact your local council to make sure the location of your permanent pool fence meets council guidelines.
Have you had a final inspection by your local council or private building certifier as soon as possible after the permanent compliant fence is installed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Contact your local council or private building certifier to arrange a final inspection.

Pool Fence- Height

Is your pool fence at least 1.2m above the ground from finished ground level?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Contact a Licensed Builder, Pool Technician or Fencing Contractor straight away.
---	------------------------------	---

Pool Fence- Non Climbable Zone

Have you made sure trees, shrubs or any other objects such as a BBQ, pot plants, toys, ladders and chairs are outside of the 90cm Non Climbable Zone? (<i>measured in an arc shape from the top of the outside of the pool fence arching towards the ground</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Trees or shrubs near the pool barrier and other objects such as a BBQ, pot plants, toys, ladders and chairs should not come within the 90cm non climbable zone so a child can not use them to climb over the fence.
--	------------------------------	--

Pool Fence- Vertical Gaps

If the fence contains vertical bars, are the gaps between these bars no more than 10cm?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Contact a Licensed Builder, Pool Technician or Fencing Contractor straight away.
---	------------------------------	---

Pool Fence- Horizontal Climbable Bars

Are the horizontal bars on the fence at least 90cm apart from each other?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Contact a Licensed Builder, Pool Technician or Fencing Contractor straight away.
---	------------------------------	---

Pool Fence- Gap at the Bottom of the Fence

Is the gap at the bottom of the pool fence no more than 10cm from finished ground level?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Contact a Licensed Builder, Pool Technician or Fencing Contractor straight away.
--	------------------------------	---

Pool Fence and Gate- Maintenance

Are all fence bolts, screws and fasteners tight and in good order?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Any loose bolts, screws and fasteners should be tightened or replaced.
Do you spray self closing gate hinges, locks and latches with lubricating oil or silicone?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Manufacturers of the pool fence and gate should provide you with written instructions on how to maintain your pool fence and gate. This may include the regular replacement of springs and regular spraying of self closing gate hinges, locks and latches with lubricating oil or silicone that can help to prevent many of the faults relating to self closing and self latching gates.

Pool- Gates, Self Closing & Latching Devices

Does your pool gate swing outwards (away from the pool area)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- The pool gate must be re-hung so it swings outwards (away from the pool area).
Does your pool gate automatically shut without having to forcibly close it from any open position?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- The pool gate should be permanently fastened until a new lock and closing device can be installed. Self closing devices can be purchased from most pool shops and hardware shops and are fairly easy to install.
Does your pool gate automatically lock (self latch) when the gate closes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- The pool gate should be permanently fastened until a new lock and closing device can be installed. Self latching devices can be purchased from most pool shops and hardware shops and are fairly easy to install.
Do you make sure you never prop your pool gate open?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Always shut the gate and never prop the gate open.

Pool Fence – Gate Latching Device Location

Is your pool gate latching device located at least 150cm above ground level?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- If your latching device is less than 150cm above ground level, it must be located on the inside of the pool fence, at least 15cm below the top of the gate, with a shield fitted around the latch of at least 45cm radius.
--	------------------------------	---

Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Sign

Do you have a CPR sign in your pool area that is in good condition and can be read from a distance of 3 metres?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Buy and install a CPR sign from your local Pool Shop, Council or Community Organisations such as St John Ambulance the Australian Red Cross or The Royal Life Saving Society.
---	------------------------------	--

Boundary Fence Used as Part of the Pool Fence

If you have any horizontal bars on the inside of the boundary fence, are they outside of the 90cm Non Climbable Zone? (<i>measured in an arc shape from the top of the outside of the pool fence arching towards the ground</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Contact a Licensed Builder, Pool Technician or Fencing Contractor to provide you with a compliant solution.
--	------------------------------	--

Child Resistant Windows

Some older swimming pools might include windows as part of the pool fence or barrier. This is no longer allowed in the building of new pools.		
If you have windows that form part of a pool barrier, do they have a locking device or a security screen that prevents them from opening more than 10cm?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No- Install a locking device or a security screen to reduce the gap to 10cm or less. Locking devices and security screens can be purchased from your local hardware store, but you should also seek advice from your local council or a licensed builder.