

Checklist for Swimming Pool Inspection

Appropriately designed and installed swimming pool or spa barriers are an effective measure to prevent young children from drowning. It is alarming, however, the number of young children that still drown in swimming or spa pools because the selected barrier is not maintained to be functional at **all** times.

Regular checking that your pool barrier performs the function it was installed for is a major strategy to reducing the chance a young child will be able to enter the pool area unsupervised and become exposed to a potentially hazardous situation.

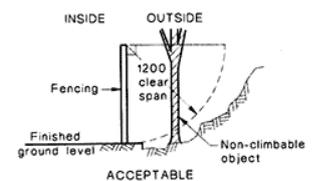
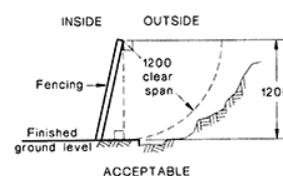
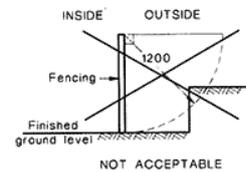
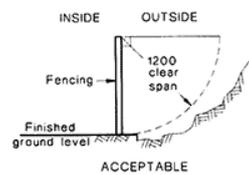
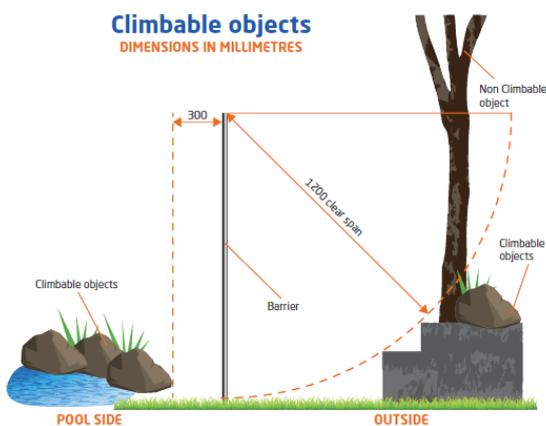
Maintenance checks should be performed on a regular basis and at least twice a year, in particular prior to the start of the summer season.

Please ensure that your swimming pool or spa fence complies with the items listed below by the inspection date.

If your answer is **YES**, and all boxes are ticked you are maintaining a functional barrier.

Check barrier design features

- Is the outside of the pool barrier at least 1200 millimetres high all the way around?
- Is the bottom of the pool barrier not more than 100 millimetres off the ground all the way around?
- Is the surface directly beneath the pool barrier stable and not able to be eroded?
- Are all vertical or near vertical members of the barrier not more than 100 millimetres apart?
- Is the pool barrier well maintained (i.e. no holes, loose or broken members, etc.)?
- Is the top of the pool barrier at least 1200 millimetres away from **any** object that would enable a young child to climb over the fence (e.g. BBQs, trees, rocks, shrubs, deckchairs, garden retaining walls, pool pumps and housing)?



Check the pool gate

The design of a pool gate must as a minimum meet the same design requirements as the previous checklist for general barrier requirements. As the gate is not a fixed barrier it must meet the following requirements:

Does the pool gate:

- Close by itself from any open position, including from a distance of 100 millimetres?
- Have a self-latching device that automatically secures the gate in the closed position immediately after opening?
- Latch securely when closing?
- Open in a direction away from the pool?
- Have the mechanism to release the latching device at least 1500 millimetres above the ground or have a shielded latch (so a young child cannot open the gate)?

Check the windows

Check any windows that could allow a child to go from your house directly or indirectly to the pool area.

- Is the bottom of the lowest openable panel of the window at least 1200 millimetres above floor surface when measured from the inside?
- Are they child resistant (so a small child cannot get through)?

Child resistant means having no gaps greater than 100 millimetres or mesh security screens. Permanent fixing of windows to open not more than 100mm is an acceptable option (including for Hopper Style windows).

Check the doors

If the pool was approved for building on or after November 5 2001, there should be no such doors, unless your local council has granted approval for the use of a door.

Doors are only permissible as part of a barrier if approval for the installation was received on or before November 4 2001.

Do all doors that could allow a child to go from a premise (i.e. house) directly or indirectly to the pool area:

- Have a self-latching device that automatically secures the door in the closed position, immediately after opening?
- Have a mechanism to release the latching device located at least 1500 millimetres above the floor level?
- Not contain any footholds on the door or door frame (architrave) wider than 10mm between the release mechanism for the door and any point 100 millimetres above finished inside floor level.

Pet access flaps built into doors are difficult to make comply and are not encouraged to be placed in a door that is a permissible part of the barrier. If present the openings shall not exceed 100mm in a vertical or horizontal direction.

What about above ground swimming or spa pools?

- Are the walls of your pool at least 1200 mm high all the way around?
- Is the side of the pool free of bracing, indents, projections, filtration equipment, etc.?
- Is any ladder, step entry and filtration equipment enclosed by a barrier with a self-closing gate?

