



HOME SWIMMING POOL SAFETY CHECKLIST

Note: This checklist does not replace the need for a pool inspection and is supplied for educational purposes. Swimming pool owners should consider obtaining a professional inspection to confirm their pool complies with current legislation.

I would suggest as a minimum that owners and residents of properties with swimming pools carry out the following checks:

POOL FENCE/BARRIER

1. Are all sections of the pool fence secure?

Give all sections of the pool fence a shake test. Where loose sections are identified carry out the necessary repairs to ensure these sections of the pool fence are properly secured. If necessary contact a pool fencing contractor to carry out this work.

2. Are there any gaps between adjacent vertical members in the pool fence greater than 100 mm in width?

If there are any gaps between adjacent vertical members in the pool fence greater than 100 mm in width then reduce these gaps to no more than 100 mm. If necessary contact a pool fencing contractor to carry out this work.

3. Are there any gaps between the bottom of the pool fence and the finished ground level greater than 100mm in height?

If there are any gaps between the bottom of the pool fence and the finished ground level greater than 100 mm in height then reduce these gaps to no more than 100 mm. If necessary contact a pool fencing contractor to carry out this work.

4. Is the distance between any potential hand and foot hold on the pool fence less than 900 mm in height to inhibit a young child from climbing over it?

If the distance between the highest lower horizontal member on the pool fence to the top of the lowest upper horizontal member on the pool fence is less than 900 mm contact a pool fencing contractor to have these defects rectified.

5. Are there any sections of the pool fence less than 1200 mm in height?

If any sections of the pool fence are less than 1200 mm in height contact a pool fencing contractor to have these parts of the pool fence rectified.

6. Is the boundary fence less than 1800 mm in height?

If any sections of the boundary fence are less than 1800 mm in height contact a fencing contractor to have these parts of the boundary fence rectified.

POOL GATE

7. Does the pool gate swing outwards, away from the pool?

If not, contact a pool fencing contractor to have the gate re-hung in position so that it swings outwards, away from the pool.

8. Does the pool gate close and latch by itself from any open position?

If the gate does not close and latch by itself from any open position contact a pool fencing contractor to have these defects rectified.

9. Is the gate latch release mechanism 1500 mm above the finished ground level, or if located inside the gate 1200 mm above the finished ground level and at least 150 mm below the top of the gate (if there is no hand-hole) and covered by an approved shield?

If required make the necessary rectifications to ensure your gate's latching device is in the correct location and if it is below the required height ensure that it is shielded with an approved shield. Contact a pool fencing contractor if you are unable to carry out this work.

AROUND THE POOL FENCE/BARRIER

10. Are there any climbable trees and shrubs within 900 mm of the pool fence?

If so, trim all climbable trees and shrubs within 900 mm of the of the pool fence. If you are unable do this work yourself contact a gardener or arborist.

11. Are there any climbable objects and structures within 900 mm of the pool fence?

If so, keep any climbable objects and structures at least 900 mm away from the pool fence at all times.

SUPERVISION

12. Are young children using the pool supervised by an adult at all times?

Make sure young children using the pool are supervised by an adult at all times. There is no substitute for constant adult supervision of children in and around swimming pools to prevent drownings and other accidents.

EMERGENCY PREPARATION

13. Do you and your family members have up to date first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills?

If not, contact St John Ambulance Australia or the Royal Life Saving Society Australia for training courses in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

14. Is there a warning sign displayed in a prominent position in the pool area showing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) procedure that includes resuscitation techniques for infants, children and adults?

If not, buy one of these signs and secure it in a prominent location in the pool area. These (CPR) signs can usually be obtained from your local council or from community organisations such as the Royal Life Saving Society Australia.

15. Does your home have a first aid kit handy?

If not, buy a first aid kit and advise everyone in your family where it is located.

PUMP, SUCTION FITTINGS AND PLUMBING GRATES AND COVERS

16. Are all the pool's suction fittings and plumbing grates and covers fitted securely in place and in good condition?

If not, secure any loose fittings and plumbing grates and covers in the pool area. Replace and broken fittings and plumbing grates and covers in the pool area. If required, contact a swimming pool repair and servicing contractor to have this work carried out.

17. Do all people using the pool including the supervising adults know where and how to switch off the pool/spa pump system in case of an emergency?

If not, show all people using the pool including the supervising adults where and how to switch off the pump prior to using the pool.

CHEMICALS

18. Are all pool chemicals kept in a secure location, out of view and out of reach of children?

If not, move all pool chemicals to a secure location, out of view and out of reach of children.

ELECTRICITY

19. Is there a residual current device (RCD) or a residual current circuit breaker (RCCB) on the power supply?

If not, contact an electrician to have an RCD or a RCCB installed on the power supply. Water and electricity do not mix. These devices can save lives.

For further advice on swimming pool safety contact:

- Building Inspections by Warren Gunn: www.buildinginspectionswg.com.au or your swimming pool safety officer at your local council.