

HOW CAN I MAKE MY POOL SAFER?

Research shows that inadequate pool barriers and lack of supervision are the most common contributors to drowning in backyard pools. This can include people leaving the gate open, or pool barriers not being maintained in good condition.

People choosing to have a pool are responsible for ensuring that their barrier is safe and complies with current legislation.

- **Always** supervise children around pools. A pool barrier is no substitute for responsible supervision.
- **Always** keep your fence, gates, doors and window locks secure and in good condition. Regularly check your pool barrier.
- **Always** keep your gate and door latches self-closing mechanisms in good working order.
- **Always** close your gates and doors when they are not in use. **Never** prop them open.
- **Never** leave climbable objects near the pool barrier.
- **Always** keep trees, shrubs and creepers trimmed well away from the pool barrier.
- **Teach** your children to swim from an early age.
- Undertake resuscitation **(CPR) training** for emergency situations



CONTACT US

PO BOX 60
Penrith NSW 2751

ph: 4732 7897
fax: 4732 7958
email: pencit@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au

HOW CAN I CHECK THAT MY POOL COMPLIES?

For a fee, Council can perform an inspection to make sure your swimming pool barrier complies with the applicable requirements. Please contact our Development Services Department on 4732 7897.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

For more information on swimming pool safety please visit the following websites

Westmead Kids: www.chw.edu.au/
Samuel Morris Foundation: www.samuelmorrisfoundation.org.au/
Royal Life Saving: www.royallifesaving.com.au/
Division of Local Government: www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/dlg_index.asp



SWIMMING POOL SAFETY WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



PENRITH
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penrithcity.nsw.gov.au

SWIMMING POOL RISKS: KEEP KIDS OUT OF HARM'S WAY

As Australians we love water. Backyard pools provide hours of fun for families and friends. However pools also pose great risks to young children.

To limit these dangers, please read this brochure carefully and keep it on hand to help make your pool safe and enjoyable.

- In NSW drowning remains the number one cause of death in children aged 0-5.
- On average six children drown in NSW backyard swimming pools each year, with many more suffering permanent disabilities from near drowning events.
- A child can drown in just 30 seconds. Once in trouble, they often can't splash, wave or call for help.



THE CHILD-RESISTANT BARRIER REQUIREMENTS IN GENERAL

- All gates are to be self-latching, self-closing and should never be propped open.
- Minimum height of pool fence 1200mm (effective height from existing ground level).
- Boundary fence is to be 1800mm in height (measured inside the pool area).
- Maintain a minimum 900mm non-climbable zone around the pool barrier free of potential footholds & handholds (including BBQ's, furniture, planter boxes, retaining walls and the like).
- No gaps larger than 100mm under or between barrier components. *This includes gaps between a spa lid and the spa wall.*

Note: Swimming Pool fencing requirements may be different depending on when your swimming pool was first installed or if any additions have been made around the pool area. Contact Council on 4732 7897 for further information.

RECENT CHANGES TO SWIMMING POOL LEGISLATION

In 2012, the Swimming Pool Amendment Act 2012 was finalised. This review identified measures to better protect children under the age of five swimming pools in NSW.

This requires Swimming Pool Owners to:

1. Register their pools on NSW State Government's online register between 29 April 2013 and 29 October 2013. Failing to do so could incur a \$220 fine.
2. Self-assess the compliance of their swimming pool with the applicable Australian Standard when registering their pool.
3. From 29 April 2014, pool owners will need to provide a valid swimming pool compliance certificate before selling or leasing a property with a pool.

4. As part of these changes Council are required to undertake a routine inspection program for all swimming pool safety barriers identified by Council.



WHAT ABOUT INFLATABLE POOLS?

Did you know that you need Council approval and a compliant pool barrier for an inflatable, demountable or portable pool that can hold 300mm of water?

Any pool that is capable of being filled with water to a depth of 300 millimetres (30cm) or more requires a pool fence (child-resistant barrier). If the capacity of the pool or spa exceeds 2,000 Litres then you will require approval before you install, fill or use it.

For portable swimming pools and spas (not exceeding 2,000L) to be exempt from needing development approval they will need to meet all requirements in the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008

Note: Pool fence (child-resistant barrier) requirements still apply on exempt pools and spas.

Many of these pools can be bought over the counter at various retailers. It is always best to contact Council to check the requirements before making your purchase.