

## 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 (where permitted) and window restrictions secure and in good condition. Regularly check your pool barrier.
- ✓ **ALWAYS** keep your gate (and door latches where permitted) self-closing mechanisms in good working order.
- ✓ **ALWAYS** close your gates (and doors where permitted) 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.

## 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 Compliance Department on 4732 7864.

## Where Can I Find Out More?

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

**Penrith City Council:**  
[penrith.city/pools](http://penrith.city/pools)

**Children's Hospital at Westmead:**  
[www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/kids-health-hub/child-safety-and-injury-prevention/child-water-safety](http://www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/kids-health-hub/child-safety-and-injury-prevention/child-water-safety)

**Samuel Morris Foundation:**  
[samuelmorrisfoundation.org.au](http://samuelmorrisfoundation.org.au)

**Royal Life Saving:**  
[royallifesaving.com.au](http://royallifesaving.com.au)

**NSW Swimming Pool Register:**  
[swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au/checklists](http://swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au/checklists)

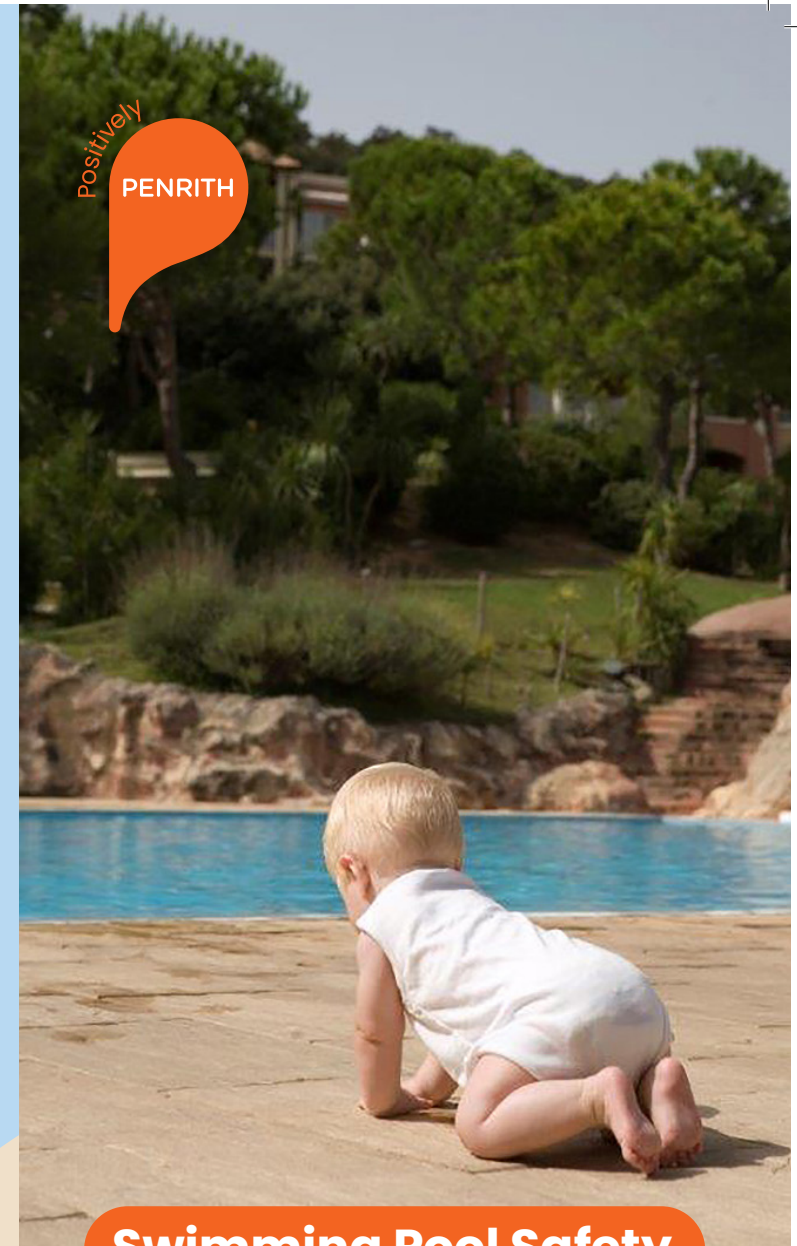


## Contact Us

📍 601 High St, Penrith NSW 2750

☎ (02) 4732 7777

@ council@penrith.city



## Swimming Pool Safety

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

 **PENRITH CITY COUNCIL**

[penrith.city](http://penrith.city)

## 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.

- Swimming pool compliance is a key factor in the reduction of drownings for children aged 0-5. Changes to legislation in 2012 has seen a significant reduction of drownings in NSW.
- Council is committed to swimming pool safety and establishing partnerships with key stakeholders, including owners of properties that contain a swimming pool, real estate agencies and managers overseeing the sale and rental of properties, retailers and industry members.
- A child can drown in just 30 seconds. Once in trouble, they often can't splash, wave or call for help.

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

## 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 and handholds** (including BBQs, furniture, planter boxes, retaining walls etc).



No gaps larger than 100mm under or between barrier components.

*Note: Swimming pool fencing requirements may be different depending on when your swimming pool was first installed or if any changes have been made around the pool area. Contact Council on 4732 7864 for further information.*

## 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 in swimming pools across NSW.

This requires swimming pool owners to:

1. Register their pools on NSW State Government's online register. 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. Self assessment checklists can be found on the NSW Swimming Pool register website: [swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au/checklists](http://swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au/checklists)
3. Pool owners need to provide a valid swimming pool compliance certificate for the swimming pool barrier before selling or leasing a property with a pool.
4. Council is required to undertake a routine inspection program for all swimming pool safety barriers identified by Council.

### DID YOU KNOW

for a swimming pool gate to be compliant, it must self-close and self-latch from all positions? Even when left resting on the latch!

## What About Inflatable Pools?

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.

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.