



Warringah Council

Safe and Complying Pool Fencing

DON'T TAKE THE RISK



Statistics show that half the children under the age of five that drown do so in private swimming pools or spas.

Swimming pools include spa pools, below ground pools, above ground pools, inflatable swimming pools (with a depth greater than 300mm) and pools under construction.

Correct and properly maintained fencing is required for all swimming pools in accordance with NSW swimming pool legislation and can help prevent drowning.

Use the following checklist and a Warringah Council professional pool safety fence inspection to ensure your pool complies with the Australian Safety Standards.

- Pool fencing is to be 1.2 metres in height and it must provide an effective child safe barrier
- No gaps are permitted in, around or under fencing that exceed 100mm
- Construction of the fence and gates are to be non climbable
- Gates are to be self closing from all positions and open away from the pool
- Latches are to be 1.5 metres high (or in another complying child safe location)
- No climbing aids are permitted adjacent to the fence eg. tree branches, filter box, play equipment, clothes lines, chairs, patio furniture, BBQ
- Fences should be built a minimum of 1 metre away from the pool at any point to enable easy access around the pool
- A complying CPR resuscitation chart is to be prominently displayed within the pool area and maintained in a clearly legible condition
- The child resistant barrier must be maintained in good conditions at all times

Note: There are some different requirements that apply to pool fencing depending on the year the pool was constructed or when the fence was substantially modified. For a more detailed description of the various requirements please visit www.warringah.nsw.gov.au and look under *community/pool safety*.

POOL SAFETY FENCE INSPECTIONS

Contact Council on 9942 2111 to arrange a professional Pool Safety Fence Inspection for only \$70. This fee includes a **FREE** resuscitation chart and a Certificate of Compliance for all pools that meet the standards.



Pools and the Law

The Swimming Pools Act 1992 covers all residential pools and the requirements that pool owners must follow. The purpose of the Act is to reduce the risk of accidental drowning and give clear guidelines for pool-owners to observe.

Avoid the penalty!

Council is responsible for ensuring that all privately owned swimming pools comply with the Swimming Pools Act. Council undertakes proactive inspections of backyard swimming pools and responds to complaints. Owners of pools who do not maintain adequate and complying pool safety barriers may be issued with \$550 on the spot fines and/or penalties up to \$5,500 per offence.

Installing a new pool?

The construction of a pool is considered a development, so you **MUST** lodge a development application with the Council before installation. For more information on the requirements for lodging your development application, please contact Council's planning staff on 9942 2111 or visit www.warringah.nsw.gov.au

More information

For further information on pool safety please visit www.warringah.nsw.gov.au and look under *community/pool safety*.

Council's pool safety web pages contain links to pool safety legislation and standards, a home pool safety checklist, an application form for a Swimming Pool Certificate of Compliance and other helpful information.

Copies of the NSW Swimming Pool legislation including the Australian Standards are also available for viewing as a reference at Council's Customer Service Counter Dee Why and in all Warringah libraries.

You can also contact Council's Compliance section on 9942 2317 or e-mail council@warringah.nsw.gov.au

