



If you have any queries, please feel free to contact the Building Section staff, phone (03) 211 1777.



CHECKLIST SWIMMING AND SPA POOL OWNERS

If you have a swimming or spa pool, use the checklist below to guide you as to whether the pool complies with the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987.

Checklist	Yes	No
• Fence height minimum of 1.2m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Fence is constructed of durable materials and is sound e.g. palings are well fixed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• No gaps of more than 100mm (this includes between palings and under palings).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Gate opens outwards (away from pool)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Gate automatically shuts and latches. (Hold gate open 150mm and let it go. It must close and self latch.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Gate latch height 1.5m high.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Backflow preventer fitted to tap.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• If pool area opens into a house e.g. through a Ranchslider door then top bolts fitted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Tree branches are to be at least 1.2m from the outside of the fence.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

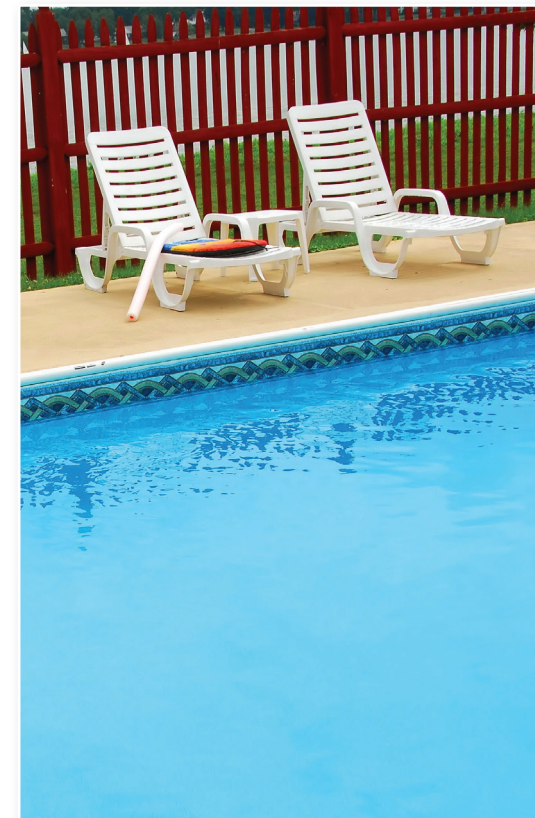
If the answer to any of the above is no, then you need to fix the problems.

Please telephone the Council if you are unsure whether your fence complies. Remember, it is the owner's responsibility to ensure the fence is safe and complies with the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987.

When draining your swimming or spa pool, please drain it to the sewer via a gully trap.

Water in pools usually contains chlorine or other chemicals which are harmful to wildlife so should not be discharged to the stormwater system.

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FENCING OF SWIMMING & SPA POOLS

INTRODUCTION

If you own a swimming pool or spa pool, it must comply with the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987. If you are considering installing a new pool, a Building Consent is required to install it.

FENCING OF SWIMMING POOLS ACT 1987

The Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987 exists to protect young children under the age of six from the dangers of unfenced swimming pools. All new and existing swimming pools, including spa pools, must be fenced unless the pool is exempted because:

- It has sides no less than 1.2 metres above ground level, constructed to prevent climbing, and with a ladder that is easily removed; or
- The pool does not have a maximum water level exceeding 400mm; or
- The pool is not used in association with residential buildings, schools, hospitals, motels, hotels, camping grounds or similar; or
- The pool is not intended to be used for wading, paddling, swimming or bathing; or
- The pool is fully indoors in a building not related to the use of a pool, e.g. a dwelling with no windows or doors to the exterior; or
- The pool is permanently supervised and access is prevented by locked gates when the pool is not in use.

All pools, no matter when they were installed, must comply with the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987.

EXEMPTIONS

You can apply to the Council for an exemption from the Act. Council may grant an exemption only if it is satisfied that the pool is not a danger to young children.

These exemptions can only be decided by the Council. Council staff cannot grant exemptions. Exemptions are heard by the Environmental and Planning Services Committee. All exemption requests must be in writing on the standard form.

FENCING MATERIALS AND HEIGHTS

The fence must be constructed of durable materials that inhibit climbing. The fence must be:

- At least 1.2 metres above ground level or above a permanent object on to the outside with a maximum spacing between vertical palings of 100mm and a minimum separation of 900mm between horizontal climbing points; or
- At least 1.8 metres above ground level if constructed of perforated mesh (trellis) or netting with a dimension greater than 10mm. Where a fence is made of perforated material, netting or mesh, the holes must not be bigger than 50mm wide.

GATES AND DOORS

Gates must open away from the pool area and be constructed to the same standard as the fence. They must also be fitted with a self closing device which will operate in the latch from 150mm from the closed position.

Gates must be clear of any obstruction that could hold the gate open.

If your pool is accessed from a dwelling through a sliding door, Council may agree to a high level lock in lieu of a self closing device.

LATCHES

All gates must have a latching device. If the latch is on the inside, it must be 1.2 metres above ground level and if situated on the outside it must be at least 1.5 metres above ground level.

If the pool does not comply, it must not be filled.

BACK FLOW REQUIREMENTS

If the pool will be filled using a garden hose or similar, back flow prevention is required either by an air break or a back flow prevention device such as a hose connection vacuum breaker or a non return valve. Note that a vacuum breaker can only be fitted to a hose tap if the tap is 150mm above the rim of the pool.

All pools must be registered with Council. After a three year period the pool must be reinspected to check for continued compliance. The current fee of initial registration is \$215.00. The reinspection fee every three years is \$200.00

SPA POOL COVERS

Spa pool covers or lockable lids do not comply with the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987.