

Pool safety checklist

To improve the safety of your swimming pool:

- Where corrugated metal is used for a swimming pool barrier less than 1800mm in height, the corrugations must be placed vertically or protected (in full height) with non-climbable material.
- Replace, tighten or adjust the hinges on gates to ensure they self-close and self-latch from any stationary position including the resting position.
- Ensure swimming pool gate hinges are at least 900mm apart from the top of the upper hinge to the top of the lower hinge.
- Ensure the height of the swimming pool safety barrier is at least 1200mm from the bottom to the top.
- Remove or trim back any branches of trees/shrubs that a child could use to climb over the swimming pool safety barrier.
- Install permanently fixed security screens on windows that open out into the swimming pool enclosure.
- Permanently remove all climbable objects (e.g. outdoor furniture, pot plants) away from the swimming pool safety barrier and surrounding area.
- Ensure clearance under the swimming pool barrier is no greater than 100mm.
- Ensure manual release for the latching device is at least 1500mm above the finished ground level and 1400mm above the highest lower horizontal member.
- Ensure the manual release for the latching device is in good working order.
- Ensure the gate opens outwards away from the swimming pool enclosure.
- Ensure the gate has obstruction-free movement through the full arc of operation.

Swimming pools (including indoor and spa pools) must comply with the pool safety standard by 30 November 2015.

Important information

- If you have a swimming pool, you may be required to undertake significant work to achieve compliance with the pool safety standard. For example, if your pool was constructed before 1991, direct access from the dwelling is no longer permitted. In addition, self-closing, self-latching doors from the dwelling are no longer allowed.
- Swimming pool barrier **exemptions** (except disability) will no longer have an effect after 30 November 2015. This means if you have an existing exemption, your swimming pool barrier must be upgraded to comply with the pool safety standard.
- Barriers are required to all portable swimming and spa pools capable of being filled with 300mm of water or more.
- Child-resistant doors from the dwelling (self-closing and self-latching door) used as a swimming pool barrier will not be permitted.
- A current resuscitation (CPR) sign adopted by the Australian Resuscitation Council must be displayed within the pool enclosure.
- All swimming pools must be registered on the State government pool register, visit www.qbcc.qld.gov.au and go to the *Pool safety* section.

Swimming pool fencing regulations



All swimming pool barriers must comply with the pool safety standard by 30 November 2015

Selling or leasing your property

Non-shared swimming pools

Houses, townhouses or units with their own pool or spa require a new pool safety certificate every two (2) years.

A valid pool safety certificate must be in place prior to entering into an accommodation agreement.

Shared swimming pools

Long term accommodation (such as a body corporate pool in a unit complex) If there is no pool safety certificate in effect, a pool safety certificate must be obtained within 90 days of entering into an accommodation agreement. The pool safety certificate must be renewed annually.

Short term accommodation hotels, motels, backpackers or hostels must have a pool safety certificate renewed annually.

Pool safety certificates – FAQs

How do I obtain a pool safety certificate from a pool safety inspector?

To find a licensed pool safety inspector, visit www.qbcc.qld.gov.au and go to the *Pool safety* section.

Where can I get a copy of the pool safety standard?

Visit www.qbcc.qld.gov.au and go to the *Pool safety* section. Under *Useful links* view the *Queensland Development Code Mandatory Part 3.4*.

Does a pool safety certificate need to be displayed?

Non-shared pools: Owners do not need to display the pool safety certificate.

Shared pools: Pool safety certificates must be displayed near the main entrance of the premises, at a gate or door to access the swimming pool.

Does the tenant need to receive a copy of the pool safety certificate?

Non-shared pools: Owners do not need to give their tenants a copy of the pool safety certificate.

Shared pools: Owners must provide a copy of a pool safety certificate to a tenant.

Does every unit owner need to have the shared pool inspected separately?

The owner of the shared pool, usually the body corporate, must obtain the certificate and make it available to unit owners.

Is a new pool safety certificate required before each new lease?

Non-shared pools: Pool safety certificates are valid for two (2) years regardless of how many times the property is leased during this period.

Shared pools: Pool safety certificates are valid for one (1) year regardless of how many times the property is leased during this period.

What happens if the pool doesn't comply at inspection?

A non-conformity notice (Form 26) will be issued by a pool safety inspector. This form advises the pool owner how the pool does not comply and what work needs to be carried out to make it comply. Local government will be notified if the work is not reinspected within 90 days.

My spa has a fully lockable, solid cover. Do I still need to have a complying barrier for the spa, and why?

Yes. There is still the potential for the lockable lid to be left open or unlocked. For this reason, a complying pool safety barrier is required for spas and some portable wading pools.

Do new swimming pools and spas require building approval?

Yes. A building certifier must provide the building approval and must inspect and certify the pool safety barrier **before** the pool is filled to a depth of 300mm of water or more.

Swimming pools must have a barrier



Portable pools must have a barrier



Spa pools must have a barrier

