

BE POOL WISE

Register your pool and ensure your fence complies

Home swimming pool safety checklist

This checklist is to be used as a guide only. If you have answered “No” to any of the questions above, your pool may not comply with the *Swimming Pools Act and Regulations*. In the interests of the safety of your household and the community, we urge you to contact Lake Macquarie City Council. Staff can assist you with further information and advice on achieving a compliant swimming pool.

Further information is available at lakemac.com.au.

Swimming pool gate

Is the gate a minimum 1.2m in height?	Yes	No	Gates must be at least 1.2m high
Does the gate open away from the pool area?	Yes	No	Gates must open away from the pool
Does the gate self-close from any position, eg. completely open to just resting on the latch?	Yes	No	Repair and maintain gate hinges
Does the gate latch automatically?	Yes	No	Repair and maintain gate latches
Is the release button for the gate latch located at least 1.5m in height from the finished ground?	Yes	No	The release for the latch must be at least 1.5m high
Is the gate secure and doesn't open even if a child were to climb on it?	Yes	No	Repair and maintain gate hinge/latch
Are all gaps between the gate, the fence and the ground less than 100mm?	Yes	No	Reduce or shield any gaps

Swimming pool fence

Is there a fence between the house and the pool?	Yes	No	Install a safety barrier around the pool (there may be some exemptions to this requirement - see over)
Is the area inside the pool fence free from any other structures such as a garage, shed, deck, patio, barbecue area etc?	Yes	No	Remove any structures inside the pool area (for pools constructed after 1 July 2010)
Is the fence surrounding the pool in good condition and secure?	Yes	No	Repair and maintain secure fencing
Are any holes, rails or footholds on the pool fence at least 900mm apart so children can't use them to climb the fence?	Yes	No	Remove or shield climbable objects on the pool fence
Is there a CPR sign displayed inside the pool area?	Yes	No	Install an approved CPR sign
Is the inside of the pool fence clear of any objects that a child might use to climb the fence?	Yes	No	Remove any objects within 300mm inside the pool fence
Are pool toys and equipment always removed from the pool and stored securely after use?	Yes	No	Keep toys, hoses, scoops and chemicals stored away
Have you registered your pool on the Division of Local Government Swimming Pool Register?	Yes	No	Register your pool at swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au

Swimming pool fence - If your pool barrier was constructed prior to 1 September 2008

Is the entire pool fence, including boundary fences, at least 1.2m in height?	Yes	No	Increase the fence height to at least 1.2m
Is the outside of the pool fence for a distance of 1.2m clear of any objects that a child might use to climb the fence?	Yes	No	Remove any objects within 1.2m outside the pool fence

Swimming pool fence - If your pool barrier was constructed after 1 September 2008

Is the boundary fence in the pool area at least 1.8m in height measured from inside the pool area?	Yes	No	Increase the fence height to at least 1.8m
Is the internal pool fence at least 1.2m in height measured from outside the pool area?	Yes	No	Increase the fence height to at least 1.2m
Is the outside of the pool fence for a distance of 900mm clear of any objects that a child might use to climb the fence?	Yes	No	Remove any objects within 900mm outside the pool fence
Is any balcony within 900mm of the pool fence provided with swimming pool fencing?	Yes	No	Install a balustrade compliant with swimming pool fencing requirements

Supervision Adult supervision in combination with pool fencing is the most effective method of preventing your child from drowning

When using the pool are you always within arms' reach of any child under five years of age?	Yes	No	Always supervise your child around water
Are you aware of the dangers of leaving older children to supervise younger children when they are using the pool?	Yes	No	An adult should always be supervising children
During parties, is an adult designated 'child supervisor' duties around the pool?	Yes	No	Never assume someone else is supervising children around water

Exemptions

An exemption to swimming pool requirements may apply under the following circumstances:

1. The swimming pool construction or installation commenced before 1 August 1990
2. The swimming pool is located on a property that is less than 230 square metres and construction or installation commenced before 1 July 2010
3. The swimming pool is located on a property that is less than two hectares or more and construction or installation commenced before 1 July 2010
4. The swimming pool is located on a waterfront property and construction or installation commenced before 1 July 2010

If your pool meet the above exemption criteria, the following construction requirements will still apply:

- a. Doors providing access to the pool area are permissible **only if** the door has a child-resistant latch located at least 1.5m above ground level and the door is self-closing and self-latching without manual force
- b. Windows providing access to the pool area are permissible **only if** the window sill is higher than 1.8m above ground level or there are securely fixed screens/mesh/bars installed or the window is restricted from opening no greater than 100mm, and
- c. If there is no barrier or fence that restricts access from the house to the pool, the means of access must be restricted at all times in accordance with the *Swimming Pools Regulation 2008* (ie. Items a. and b.)

If a barrier **has been installed** to surround the pool area or to restrict direct access to the pool area in any of the circumstances above, the exemption is void and **all pool fencing must comply with the Australian Standards AS 1926.**

The above exemptions do not negate the requirement to have an inspection as part of Council's Swimming Pools Program and the associated fees.