

Water safety checklist

■ Teach children about water safety

Educate your child with safety rules around water from your first pool or beach visits. Teach familiarisation and confidence by playing games with children in the water.

■ Teach children to swim and survive in water

If you don't have the skills or confidence for this, contact your local swimming school. Learn CPR for children.

■ Never prop safety gates or doors open

Ensure gates or doors to a pool area close and latch automatically after access.

■ Never leave a child alone in a pool area

Teach children to ask for a supervisor before entering the pool area. If you are in the pool area with the child and have to attend to other tasks, even briefly, take the child with you.

■ Remove toys from the pool area after use

When the pool is unattended, remove toys from the pool and pool area, away from temptation.

■ Be alert when visiting a home with a pool

When you have a child in your care at a property with a pool, ensure that all pool safety measures are in place. Supervise children closely in unfamiliar surroundings.

■ Supervise actively – and avoid distractions

Supervision is a constant duty, not an occasional glance while entertaining, reading, telephoning or texting. Appoint a capable lifeguard for group poolside activities.

■ Keep climbable objects clear of pool fencing

Check that trees, woodpiles, rocks, bricks, bins or other items cannot assist a child's access to the pool area.

CPR for children: dial 111 first

Infants up to 1 year

Airway open

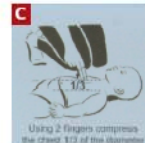
Head tilt. Chin lift. Be gentle.

Breathing: look, listen and feel

If breathing, place child on its side. If not breathing normally: Give 2 breaths over mouth *and* nose. Start 30 chest compressions:

Chest compressions

With two fingers, perform 30 compressions to one-third of chest depth, followed by 2 breaths. Continue CPR until victim recovers or help arrives.



Children 1 to 8 years

Airway open

Head tilt. Chin lift.

Breathing: look, listen and feel

If breathing, place child on its side. If not breathing normally: Pinch nose and give 2 mouth-to-mouth breaths. Start 30 chest compressions:

Chest compressions

Using one or two hands, perform 30 compressions to one-third of chest depth, followed by 2 breaths. Continue CPR until victim recovers or help arrives.



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Your child
Your pool
Your responsibility

Supervise!

Supervision: first priority

Proper supervision of 0-4 year old children in and around water hazards could prevent 89% of child drownings. On average, 11 under-four-year-old children drown every year – almost half of these in the home pool. On average, a further 37 children are hospitalised every year as a result of near-drowning.

Domestic swimming pools are a source of family enjoyment, but a deadly hazard for unsupervised small children. It takes just seconds for a child to drown. Besides approved pool fencing, supervision is the most important factor in preventing needless tragedies.

Supervision guide

A **supervisor** must be a responsible, capable adult or caregiver over the age of 16 years.

- Watch children in or near water constantly.
- Stay within arm's reach of non-swimmers and children under five years of age in or near water.
- Do not attend to distractions which divert your attention from the child, eg: telephones or doorbells.
- Be ready to respond quickly to emergencies.

Children up to 5 years and non-swimmers

Parent or adult must be in the water, holding or staying within arm's reach of the child.

Children 6 to 10 years

Parent or adult must be at the water's edge and have constant eye-contact with the child.

Children 11 to 15 years

Parent or adult must be personally responsible and supervise activities in and around water.

Appoint at least one lifeguard to be dedicated to water safety whenever the pool is in use.

Supervising adults should be proficient with CPR for children – see the back of this leaflet for details.



Fencing for poolside child safety

Pool owners have a legal responsibility to provide safe pool environments. Pools, spas, hot-tubs and pool fences must have local council building consents under the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act (1987) and the Building Act (2004). Check for current compliance – contact your council or www.watersafe.org.nz

Pool fencing construction guide

The following is a general guide only. For up-to-date pool fencing compliance needs, contact your council.

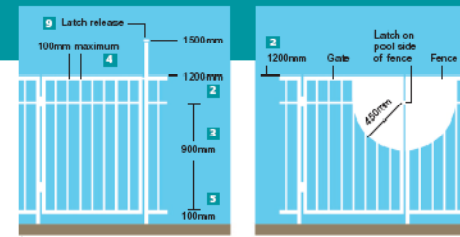
The objective is to prevent children up to six years old from entering a pool area without adult attendance.

- 1 Top of fence is at least 1200mm clear of climbable permanent structures, trees, mounds or debris.
- 2 Fence height is 1200mm at its lowest point.
- 3 Horizontal fence rails are at least 900mm apart or covered with a permanent non-climbable material.
- 4 Fence uprights are no more than 100mm apart.
- 5 Space under gate or fence is no more than 100mm.
- 6 Fence is continuous and has no accessible gaps.
- 7 Mesh, trellis or lathe fences do not offer a foothold.
- 8 Gate opens away from the pool.
- 9 Gate latch release is at least 1500mm from ground.
- 10 Gates self-close and self-latch from any position.
- 11 Gate latch and hinges operate efficiently.

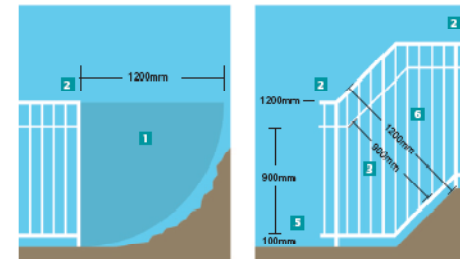
House walls forming part of a pool fence

Doors and windows in walls forming all or part of a pool fence must be agreed by your local council to be part of the 'immediate pool area'.

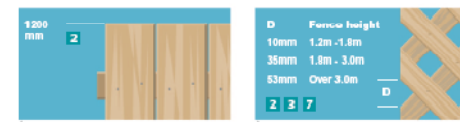
- Windows onto the pool which are less than 1200mm above the interior floor cannot open more than 100mm.
- Doors self-close and self-latch from an open position of 150mm and from any position up to fully open.
- Door latch release is at least 1500mm above floor.
- Self-closing and self-latching door systems which comply with the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act and NZS 8500:2006 are available.
- Installations require pre-approval by your local council early in the planning stage to become 'alternative solutions' under the Acts.



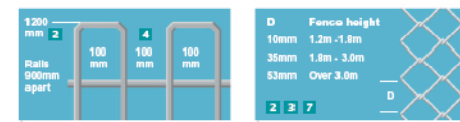
Latch release 1500mm above ground – or latch shields for gates with open construction



1200mm clear of any climbable feature



Acceptable if facing out from pool



Acceptable to specified measurements. Proprietary products may be available.

Acceptable to specified measurements. May be applied over climbable fences.

Regular poolside safety maintenance

- Lop low-hanging branches on poolside trees.
- Maintain self-latching and self-closing mechanisms on gates and doors to ensure efficient operation.
- Check fenceline for signs of deterioration.
- Keep climbable household items (ladders, bins, bricks, woodpiles etc) well away from the pool fence.
- As an ongoing responsibility, check that pool fencing always complies with current local council requirements.