

Pool owner's guide

This document will guide you through what to check regarding your pool to make sure it complies with the new national pool fencing laws. Please note this does not cover every aspect and other non-complying things may be identified during an inspection of your pool.

The checklist below includes things to check around your pool, if the question or statement is true (based on your pool) give the box a tick. If it isn't true, you will need to fix it before your pool is inspected.

IMMEDIATE POOL AREA

This means the land in or on where the pool is situated and the surrounding area used for activities carried out in relation to or involving the pool. Things to note are:

- Is the immediate pool area too large?
- No thoroughfares
- No vegetable gardens
- No storage areas (eg wood, gas bottles)
- No clothes line
- No sheds (unless pump hose or pool equipment)
- No dog run/kennel etc.

FENCES

- Has or be provided with physical barriers that restrict access to pools or the immediate pool area
- Fence surrounds the pool or immediate pool area
- Outside surface of the wall is constructed so as to inhibit climbing
- Part of the top of any side wall of the pool is 1.2m above adjacent ground level
- Gaps under fence maximum 100mm
- Spacing between vertical pales, panels, or post not exceed 100mm at any point
- Minimum of 900 mm between horizontal rails
- Where the fence is constructed of perforated material, netting, or mesh and any opening in the material, netting, or mesh has a dimension (other than the circumference or perimeter) greater than 10 mm, the fence shall extend at least 1.8 metres above the ground or the projection or object.

OBJECTS WITHIN 1.2M

- any permanent projection from the ground outside of the pool and within 1.2 metres of the walls of the pool
- any object standing on the ground outside of the pool and within 1.2 m of the walls of the pool
- any ladder or other means of access to the interior of the swimming pool is removed or made inoperable whenever the pool is not intended to be in use

GATES

- must open away from the pool
- automatically self closes and latches
- does not come off hinges if pulled up
- clear of any obstruction that could hold door open
- latches at least 1.5 above ground level on outside of gate
- latches on inside pool 1.2m from ground level

DOORS WHERE A BUILDING FORMS

Doors where a building forms all or part of an immediate pool area barrier doors between the building and immediate pool area

- must not be able to be readily opened by children (latches 1.5m)
- clear of any obstruction that could hold the door open and no other means of holding the door open
- Must either emit an audible warning when the door is open
- or
- close and latch automatically after use

WINDOWS

- opening from a building 1.2m and under into the immediate pool area must be constructed or positioned to restrict the passage of children (restrictors open only 100mm)

SMALL HEATED POOL (SUCH AS SPA POOL OR HOT TUB)

A small heated pool is permitted to have a cover as long as it :

- restricts the entry of children when closed (latches and lockable) and
- has a water surface area of 5m² or less and
- walls of the pool is at all points not less than 760 mm above the adjacent floor or ground level and
- the walls of the pool inhibit climbing and
- be able to withstand a reasonably foreseeable load and
- be able to be readily returned to the closed position and
- have signage indicating its child safety features

Note: If doesn't comply above requires fencing

BACKFLOW DEVICES

For all residential and small heated pools - Backflow devices must be installed

- Hose Vacuum Breaker on closest tap to pool
- Provisions of the Water Supplies Protection Regulations to be complied with. A minimum of a double check valve is to be installed on the water supply within the property, as close to the water toby as possible, to protect the main from potential contaminated water.
- Back wash to approved disposal system sewer drainage via permanent fixed piping by Licensed Plumber and/or Drain layer
 - Water disposal – Rural – soak hole or approved device
 - Waste disposal Urban - to authorised waste outlet

For further information check out the Build Waikato website: buildwaikato.co.nz