

Swimming Pool Safety

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Transition to AS1926.1-2024 Swimming Pool Safety Barriers

1. What is AS1926.1-2024?

AS1926.1-2024 is the latest Australian Standard for swimming pool safety barriers. It provides updated requirements and guidance for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of child-resistant swimming pool barriers to help prevent young children from accessing pools unsupervised. The revised standard includes clearer definitions and diagrams, updated guidance on non-climbable zones, and revised requirements for gate components such as latches and hinges.

2. Why is the standard changing?

The standard has been updated to improve swimming pool safety, remove ambiguities, reflect modern practices and provide greater clarity for pool owners, builders, certifiers and inspectors. The overarching objective remains the prevention of child drowning through effective pool barriers.

3. When will the new standard apply?

Council is preparing the community for the anticipated transition to AS1926.1-2024 from 1 May 2027. Pool owners are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the new requirements and undertake any necessary maintenance or upgrades before this date.

4. Do I need to upgrade my existing pool barrier?

The need for upgrades will depend on the design, condition and performance of your existing pool barrier. However, Council strongly encourages pool owners to assess their pool barriers early and identify any potential issues before the transition to AS1926.1-2024.

5. What are the main changes in AS1926.1-2024?

Key changes include:

- Clearer definitions and explanatory diagrams.
 - Enhanced guidance regarding Non-Climbable Zones (NCZs).
 - Greater emphasis on climbable objects, structures and vegetation around barriers.
 - Updated requirements relating to gate latches and hinges.
 - Improved guidance regarding barrier performance and ongoing maintenance.
 - Additional clarification to support more consistent compliance assessments.
-

6. What is a Non-Climbable Zone (NCZ)?

A Non-Climbable Zone is the area surrounding a pool barrier that must remain free of objects that could be used by a child to gain access over, under or through the barrier.

Examples include:

- Pot plants
- Outdoor furniture
- BBQs
- Children's toys
- Garden edging
- Trees and vegetation
- Retaining walls
- Air-conditioning units
- Storage boxes

Under AS1926.1-2024 there is an increased emphasis on ensuring non-climbable zones remain clear and effective.

7. What should I check now?

Council recommends pool owners:

- ✓ Test gates to ensure they self-close and self-latch from all positions.

- ✓ Check for rust, wear or damage to hinges and latches.
 - ✓ Review nearby structures, landscaping and furniture that could make the barrier climbable.
 - ✓ Ensure CPR signage is installed and clearly visible within 3 metres of the pool and dated after 31 August 2018. .
 - ✓ Inspect barriers for damage, deterioration, excessive movement or gaps that may exceed 100mm.
 - ✓ Ensure that the finished height of the internal barrier measures a minimum of 1200mm and any boundary barrier measures a minimum 1800mm.
 - ✓ Consider obtaining professional advice if you are unsure of your pool's compliance status.
-

8. Will Council continue to accept barriers that only comply with older standards?

Council's focus will increasingly move towards the current safety standard, AS1926.1-2024.

As part of the transition, Council may no longer uphold previous safety standards where barriers do not achieve compliance.

If a swimming pool barrier is found to be non-compliant, it will be required to meet the requirements of AS 1926.1-2024, even if it previously complied with an earlier standard.

9. Will my pool pass an inspection if it was built years ago?

Age alone will not determine whether a pool barrier passes or fails an inspection.

Council will assess the condition, effectiveness and safety performance of the barrier, together with the applicable legislative and safety requirements in force at the time of assessment.

Pool owners are encouraged to proactively review older barriers that may contain outdated designs or features.

10. I recently obtained a Certificate of Compliance. Will I need another inspection?

A previously issued Certificate of Compliance remains valid for the period prescribed under legislation.

However, pool owners remain responsible for ensuring their pool barrier continues to operate correctly and remains compliant at all times.

A certificate does not exempt a pool owner from maintaining a safe and effective barrier.

11. What happens if my pool barrier is found to be non-compliant?

Where non-compliance is identified, Council will require corrective action to be undertaken to ensure the barrier complies. An appropriate amount of time will be provided for works to be completed in accordance with the Swimming Pools Act 1992 and associated legislation.

Council's primary objective is to achieve a safe outcome that protects children from drowning risks.

12. What if I don't know whether my pool is ready for AS1926.1-2024?

Council encourages pool owners to seek advice early.

Options include:

- Booking a swimming pool inspection with Council.
 - Engaging an accredited swimming pool certifier.
 - Reviewing information available through the NSW Swimming Pool Register.
 - Monitoring Council communications regarding the transition to AS1926.1-2024.
-

13. Do these requirements apply to portable and inflatable pools?

Yes.

Portable and inflatable pools present the same drowning risks as permanent pools.

Pools that are capable of holding more than 30cm of water generally require a compliant child-resistant barrier, and pools over 2,000 litres require development approval before installation and use, unless otherwise exempt. This is already a key message within Council's campaign.

14. Why is Council focusing on this change?

Drowning remains one of the leading causes of preventable death for young children.

Council's objective is to:

- Improve community awareness.
 - Encourage proactive maintenance.
 - Reduce preventable pool-related incidents.
 - Help residents prepare early for AS1926.1-2024.
 - Promote a culture of continuous pool safety improvement.
-

15. Where can I get more information?

For further information:

- Visit Council's swimming pool webpage.
 - Contact Council's Swimming Pool Team on 4732 7864.
 - Speak with an accredited swimming pool certifier.
 - Refer to the NSW Swimming Pool Register and associated self-assessment resources.
 - [Spotlight on: AS 1926.1:2024, swimming pool safety – safety barriers for swimming pools - Standards Australia](#)
-

AS1926.1-2024 is coming. Don't wait until 2027. Check your pool barrier today and make sure it continues to provide the highest level of protection for children.