How can I make my pool safer?

Research shows that inadequate pool barriers are the leading causes of drowning in backyard pools. This includes gates being left open or barriers not being properly maintained.

Pool owners are responsible for ensuring their barriers are safe and fully compliant with current legislation.

- **ALWAYS** supervise children around pools. A pool barrier is no substitute for responsible adult supervision.
- **ALWAYS** keep your fence, gates, doors (where permitted) and window restrictions secure and in good condition. Regularly check your pool barrier.
- **ALWAYS** ensure your gate and door latches (where permitted) have self-closing mechanisms.
- **ALWAYS** close gates and doors when not in use. Never prop them open.
- **NEVER** leave climbable objects near the pool barrier.
- **ALWAYS** keep trees, shrubs and creepers trimmed well away from the pool barrier.
- **TEACH** children to swim from an early age.
- Learn **CPR training** to be prepared for emergencies.

How can I check that my pool complies?

Council offers inspections (for a fee) to ensure your pool barrier meets safety requirements. Contact Council's Development Compliance department on 4732 7864.

Where can I find out more?

For more information on swimming pool safety, visit:

Penrith City Council:
penrith.city/pools

Contact Us

601 High St, Penrith NSW 2750

(02) 4732 7777

council@penrith.city

Swimming Pool Safety

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL

penrith.city

Swimming pool risks: keep kids out of harms way

As Australians, we love spending time in and around water. Backyard pools provide hours of fun for families and friends – but they also pose serious risks to young children. To help reduce these dangers, read this brochure carefully and keep it handy – it's full of practical tips to help keep your pool area safe and enjoyable.

- Compliant pool barriers save lives, especially for children aged 0-5. Legislative changes in 2012 have helped reduce drownings across NSW.
- Council is committed to pool safety, working with property owners, real estate agents and industry professionals to promote safe practices.
- A child can drown in just 30 seconds – often silently, without splashing or calling for help.

NOTE: Child-resistant barrier requirements still apply to pools and spas, even if they are exempt from development approval.

Child-resistant barrier requirements

- **Gates** must be self-closing, self-latching, and never propped open.
- **Pool fence height must be at least 1200mm** from ground level.
- **Boundary fence must be at least 1800mm high** (measured from inside the pool area).
- **Maintain a 900mm non-climbable zone around the pool barrier – free of potential footholds and handholds** such as BBQs, furniture, planter boxes, retaining walls etc.
- Ensure **no gaps larger than 100mm** under or between barrier components.

Note: Swimming pool fencing requirements may vary depending on when your pool was installed or if changes have been made to the surrounding area. For advice specific to your property, contact Council on 4732 7864.

Swimming pool legislation

In 2012, the Swimming Pool Amendment Act introduced stronger safety measures to protect children under the age of five in NSW. As a pool owner, you must:

1. Register your pool on the NSW Government's Swimming Pool register. Failing to do so may result in a $220 fine.
2. Obtain a valid compliance certificate before selling or leasing a property with a swimming pool. For information on engaging Council to conduct a swimming pool barrier inspection, visit penrith.city/pools or call 02 4732 7864.
3. Council conducts routine inspections of swimming pool safety barriers to monitor compliance with safety requirements.

DID YOU KNOW For a swimming pool gate to be compliant, it must self-close and self-latch from every position – even if it's left resting on the latch.

What about inflatable pools?

Any pool that can hold 300mm (30cm) or more of water must have a compliant child-resistant pool barrier. If the pool or spa has a capacity over 2,000 litres, you will need Council approval before installing, filling or using it. Portable pools and spas under 2,000 litres may be exempt from development approval – but only if they meet all requirements under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008. These pools are often sold over the counter, so it's best to check with Council before making a purchase to ensure you meet all safety and legal requirements.