

## Make sure you follow the ABC of pool safety



For every young child that drowns in a pool, approximately five are hospitalised due to immersion injuries. Some of these children will suffer permanent brain damage.

You can protect your family by following the ABC of pool safety:



### Always supervise your children near a pool

Effective pool safety depends on the vigilance of parents and carers supervising young children around pools at all times.



### Begin swimming lessons for your children

Many parents start swimming lessons out of concern for their child's water safety. Swimming lessons are never a substitute for supervision, but learning how to swim does reduce the possibility of drowning.



### Close the pool gate and keep your fence maintained

It is important to make sure that your pool gate always self-closes and self-latches and that you check your pool fence to ensure it complies. For more information on pool fencing laws, visit [www.hpw.gov.au/poolsafety](http://www.hpw.gov.au/poolsafety) or contact your local council.

Improve your pool safety by following these tips:

- Complete the 'Does your pool pass the test?' checklist on the other side of this fact sheet.
- Supervise your children at all times when near swimming pools—many immersions happen in the few seconds that parents are distracted.
- Teach your children to swim but be aware that swimming instruction alone is not a guarantee against drowning.
- Maintain your pool fence and pool gate latches.
- Ensure the gate self-closes and the latch closes automatically.
- Do not tie back your pool gate or obstruct the latch from closing automatically.
- Regularly check your fence for damage and ensure objects near the fence (such as trees and furniture) do not enable a child to climb over the fence.
- Display a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) sign and attend a CPR first aid course.
- Have your pool inspected and certified. To find a licensed pool safety inspector, call the Pool Safety Council on **1800 340 634**.

For more information, please visit [www.hpw.gov.au/poolsafety](http://www.hpw.gov.au/poolsafety) or contact:

**Building Codes Queensland | Department of Housing and Public Works**

tel: 07 3239 6369 or 1800 534 972 (free call) | [buildingcodes@hpw.qld.gov.au](mailto:buildingcodes@hpw.qld.gov.au)

[www.hpw.qld.gov.au](http://www.hpw.qld.gov.au)

# Does your pool pass the test?



Swimming pools should be fun. However, drowning is one of the leading causes of death in Queensland for children aged one to five years.

Supervising of young children and teaching them to swim at a young age can save lives. Effective pool fencing also keeps young children safe.

Queensland has some of the highest pool safety standards in Australia. All pools must comply with the pool safety standard by 30 November 2015 or earlier if the property is sold or leased.

To find out if your pool meets the current pool safety standard complete this checklist.

## Checklist

- My pool is registered. Failing to register your pool can result in an on-the-spot fine of \$220 or a maximum penalty of up to \$2200 if a complaint is made to your local government or the Pool Safety Council. To register your pool call the Pool Safety Council on 1800 340 634 or visit [www.hpw.qld.gov.au](http://www.hpw.qld.gov.au)

## Pool fences

- I have a pool fence restricting access from my house to my pool.
- The outside of my pool fence is at least 1.2 metres high all the way around.
- The bottom of my pool fence is less than 100 millimetres off the ground all the way around.
- All vertical or near-vertical fence uprights are no more than 100 millimetres apart.
- All horizontal or near horizontal fence rails are at least 900 millimetres apart.
- My pool fence is well maintained—there are no holes or broken posts or rails.
- There are no climbable objects near the fence that would allow a child to climb into the pool area such as BBQs, trees, rocks, shrubs and furniture.
- A cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) sign is prominently displayed in the pool area.

## Pool gate

- My pool gate closes by itself from any open position.
- My pool gate latches by itself when it closes.
- My pool gate opens outwards, away from the pool.
- I never prop open or tie back my pool gate or otherwise obstruct it from automatically closing.
- I have a latch release which is at least 1.5 metres above the ground or shielded so a child cannot open the gate.

## Building a new pool

- I have a building approval for the swimming pool and fencing.
- I have a sign warning people that I have a pool under construction and it is clearly visible from the road at the front of my property.
- I have obtained certification for the fence (temporary or permanent) around my new pool prior to filling it with water.
- I have obtained a final inspection of the swimming pool and permanent fence.

## Windows

Check any windows that could allow a child to go from your house directly to the pool area

- My windows do not open wider than 100 centimetres or my windows are suitably screened to prevent access to the pool area.

## Doors

- There is no direct access through a door from the house to the pool area.

These features are some key requirements under Queensland's current pool safety standard. On-the-spot fines of up to \$770 and further penalties up to \$18 150 can be imposed on pool owners if their pool fence does not comply with the law.

If you have an indoor pool or require further information on an outdoor pool please contact the Pool Safety Council or a qualified inspector.