



PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS SAFETY FENCING SPECIFICATIONS Information Sheet B6

SAFETY FENCING IS REQUIRED FOR ALL ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS CONTAINING WATER TO A DEPTH GREATER THAN 300MM

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Fencing is to be designed and constructed so that at any point, the outside of the fencing will present an effective barrier by restricting the access of young children to a pool.

Types of Materials: Fencing may be constructed from any type of material, provided it is of a durable nature and that the finished fencing components comply with the specifications.

Fencing Height: The effective fencing height shall not be less than 1.2m. The height along the length of fence is measured to the finished ground level.

Perforated Materials or Mesh: Apertures to be 13mm or less. Where fencing has apertures greater than 13mm (but less than 100mm) the fence is to be a minimum of 2.4m in height.

Ground Clearance: The space between the finished ground level and the bottom of the fencing shall not exceed 100mm.

Horizontal Members: Substantially horizontal and diagonal surfaces such as rails and bracings that could be used as holds for climbing, must be situated on the inside of the fencing and at least 900mm apart.

If situated less than 900mm apart, the vertical members (uprights) must be spaced no more than 10mm apart.

The top surface of the bottom horizontal member (rail) shall be at least 1.1 m below the top of the fence.

Inside Fencing: Any horizontal surfaces that are permanently located near the inside of fencing and could be used as holds for climbing must be at least 300mm clear of the fence.

Vertical Members: Spacing between uprights such as palings, tubing, pickets etc shall not exceed 100 mm at any point.

Above Ground Pools: The walls of the pool shall be an effective barrier if they are not less than 1.2m in height and provide no climbable projections or indentations such as bracing, filter, pipes, ladder etc. A fence and gate would be required to be installed around the pool ladder, bracing, filter pipes or indentations etc.



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GATES AND FITTINGS

Direction of Opening: Gates shall be hung so that they swing outwards only, away from the pool area (applicable to all pools installed after 1989).

Automatic Closing Device: All gates shall be fitted with a device that will return the gate to the closed position and operate the latching device from any position with a stationary start and without manual force.

The closing device shall be capable of complying with these requirements with the gate at a position, from resting on the latching mechanism, to fully open.

Latching Device: Gates shall be fitted with a self-latching device that will automatically operate on the closing of the gate and will prevent the gate from being re-opened without manually releasing the mechanism.

Location of Latching Device: The latch or its release should be located at 1.5 m above finished ground level.

Where the latching device is located at a height less than 1.5m above finished ground level, the location of the latching device and its release shall:-

- a) not be on the outside of the fencing;
- b) be in such a position that to release the latching mechanism from the outside it will be necessary to reach over or through the fencing at a height greater than 1.2m above finished ground level; and
- c) be at least 150mm below the top of the fencing, or
- d) be at least 150mm away from the edge of any hand hold opening.

Where the gate is of open-construction and the latch release below 1.5m, the latch must be shielded so that no opening greater than 10mm occurs within an area bounded by:-

- a) a circular area with a radius of 450mm from the operating parts of the latch; and
- b) the top of the fence, if this intersects the area described in a).

CURRENT REGULATIONS - EFFECTIVE 1/7/92

Properties with a pool installed prior to 1st July 1992 are required to provide a safety barrier in compliance with Australian Standard AS 1926.1 to restrict access to a pool from outside the property.

Current regulations are intended to restrict access by young children along two routes to a pool; from outside the property and from a house or other building within the property.

IF AN ISOLATION FENCE IS NOT ERECTED

Property boundary fences and walls of a building may form pool safety barriers, provided they comply with Australian Standards AS 1926.1 (the specifications in part, being described in this brochure).

Where the wall of a building is used as part of the pool enclosure, windows and doors leading to the pool must be modified as follows:

Opening Windows: The window sill must be higher than 1.2m, or a fixed grille or bars must be provided or a fixed permanent device that prevents the window from opening more than 100mm must be installed. Key locks are not suitable for this purpose.

Opening Doors: Both sliding and hinged swinging doors must be fitted with a self-latching device with the latch release not less than 1.5m above the floor, and a self-closing device that will return the door to the closed position, and operate the latching device from any position with a stationary start and without manual force at all times.

FURTHER INFORMATION

State legislation requires that all pool enclosures are inspected at least once in every four year period. It is your obligation and responsibility to ensure that the pool safety barriers and mechanism are maintained at all times. Padlocks are not accepted as a safety device.

DISCLAIMER

This information contains general information only and has been prepared in good faith to assist customers. Verification with original Local Laws, Acts, Planning Schemes, and other relevant documents is recommended for detailed references. The Shire of Waroona accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions.