

Fencing Pools

Residential pools need to be registered and are inspected by the Council every three years.

Residential pools with a maximum depth of water of 400mm or more that are filled or partly filled with water are required to have a barrier by law to prevent unsupervised access to the immediate pool area by children younger than five years old. Requirements for child safety provisions for residential pools are outlined in the *Building Act 2004* and Building Code Clause F9.

This fact sheet provides more detail on the requirements for residential pools.

Have you got one?

If you have a pool on your property or are thinking of putting one in, the Council needs to know about it.

The easiest way to do this is through your building consent application (for a new pool) or by registering an existing one. If your pool is a kitset pool or 'plug in' spa supported directly on the ground, you should speak to one of our Inspectors about fencing and safety requirements.

Registration of pools

The Council is required to keep a register of all pools, and to inspect them regularly to ensure they continue to comply with the *Building Act 2004*.

There is a fee for an initial registration and inspection. Any further inspections will incur additional charges for each inspection.

You can view the *Building Act 2004* on the government regulations website: legislation.govt.nz (statutes).



Fencing for safety

Why do I need a fence around the pool?

The law generally requires pools to be fenced to protect young children from the danger of drowning.

'Pools' are defined as an excavation, structure or product that is used or is capable of being used for the purpose of swimming, wading, paddling or bathing.

Pools that do not require fencing

Two instances where a pool does not require fencing are:

- Where the sides of the pool are at least 1.2m above ground level and cannot be climbed. Note: Any ladder or means of access to the pool shall have an enclosing barrier and gate and may need building consent.
- The maximum depth of the pool does not exceed 400mm when the pool is full.

Please turn over

Small Heated Pools Regulations

Some spa pools may not need to be fenced if they meet certain exemption criteria. These can be found at building.govt.nz.

If you are unsure about your obligations or if you would like to arrange an inspection, contact us on 0800 965 468.

Safety first

The safety of others around water on your property is your responsibility.

Even if your pool or pond is fenced or meets the exemption requirements of the *Building Act 2004*, you must ensure that any small children are protected from the dangers of immersion injury and drowning.

Watch children by the pool!

It is your responsibility to ensure that any small children are protected from the dangers of immersion injury and drowning.

Gates should be maintained and must self close and latch correctly.

Do not store or leave objects against the fence where they could be used by a child to climb over the safety barrier.



Find out more at waimakariri.govt.nz, or contact Customer Services on 0800 965 468.