

# Fencing Pools

**All residential pools capable of holding 400mm depth or more of water must have a physical barrier to restrict access by unsupervised children under five years of age — this includes temporary, inflatable and spa pools unless exempt under F9/AS2.**

## How do I register my pool?

Residential pool barriers must be registered with the Council, and must be maintained to a compliant standard by the responsible person(s). Pool barrier regulations apply to in-ground pools and above ground pools, both temporary and permanent.

To register your pool, please fill in a swimming pool registration form online via [waimakariri.govt.nz](http://waimakariri.govt.nz). Alternatively you can call 0800 965 468 or email [pools@wmk.govt.nz](mailto:pools@wmk.govt.nz) if you would like assistance.

## Who is responsible for maintaining compliance?

Section **162C(4)** of the Building Act 2004 states who is responsible for ensuring that a pool barrier is compliant, including but not limited to; the owner of the pool and the owner of the land on which the pool is situated.

## What are 3-yearly routine inspections?

Section **162D** of the Building Act 2004 requires that all residential pools have a routine 3-yearly inspection carried out. These inspections are required to help ensure that responsible person(s) meet their obligations under the Building Act 2004, by maintaining compliance with nationwide safety standards that are designed to help keep under five year olds safe around pools.

## How do I prepare for a 3-yearly inspection?

Please use our Pool Barrier Checklist and Small Heated Pool Checklist available on the Council's **website**.



## How do 3-yearly inspections work?

Routine 3-yearly inspections can be carried out by the Council, or by an Independently Qualified Pool Inspector (IQPI). If you wish to engage an IQPI, please contact the Council to indicate your intention so that a Council Building Inspector doesn't also conduct an inspection. The IQPI public register is available online via [poolinspectors.mbie.govt.nz](http://poolinspectors.mbie.govt.nz)

The Council's Fees and Charges Schedule states the costs associated with the Council carrying out the pool barrier inspection for you. Our Fees and Charges Schedule can be found online at [waimakariri.govt.nz](http://waimakariri.govt.nz)

## What happens if I pass my pool barrier inspection?

If your pool barrier complies at the time of the inspection, maintenance should be continued for the for the next three years. The Council will contact you again in three years' time.

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## What happens if I fail my pool barrier inspection?

If your pool barrier does not comply at the time of your inspection you will be given reasonable time to remedy the issues before a reinspection is completed (at no charge). Once non-compliant aspects are remedied, please contact the Council to book a reinspection. If the remedy can be shown in a picture, this can be emailed to [pools@wmk.govt.nz](mailto:pools@wmk.govt.nz) which may negate the need for a reinspection.

## I want to install a new pool and barrier, what should I do?

All pool barriers require a building consent, you may need to engage a designer to plan your barrier so that it is compliant with national requirements under the Building Code and **Building Act 2004**.

All pools that can hold 400mm depth or more of water require a barrier, this includes temporary above ground pools.

## Do I need to register my spa?

Please use the Council's Small Heated Pool Checklist available on the Council's website to check whether your spa can be considered exempt from fencing requirements under Schedule 1, Clause 21A of the Building Code. Building Code clause F9/AS2 states the requirements that the safety cover needs to meet.

Small heated pools (including spas) that do not meet the exemption criteria need a compliant barrier installed. Not sure whether you've got it right? We are here to help. Give us a call on 0800 965 468 or send an email to [pools@wmk.govt.nz](mailto:pools@wmk.govt.nz)



Find out more at [waimakariri.govt.nz](http://waimakariri.govt.nz), or contact Customer Services on 0800 965 468.