THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT...

Fencing Pools and Ponds

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 Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987.

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


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; and includes a spa pool.

POOLS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE FENCING

Two instances where a pool, including a private ornamental pool or fish pond, is automatically exempt from fencing are:

• Where the sides of the pool are at least 1.2m above ground level and cannot be climbed. Any ladder or other means of access must be easily removed or rendered inoperable.

• The maximum depth of the pool does not exceed 400mm when the pool is full.

Even if you are not required, by law, to fence your pool or pond, it still represents a potential hazard to very young children and it may still be prudent to consider a safety barrier or cover.

If you are unsure about your obligations or if you would like to arrange an inspection, contact us on 03 311 8900.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit waimakariri.govt.nz for more information about fencing of pools and ponds, or contact Customer Services on 03 311 8900.
SPECIAL CASES
You can also ask for an exemption from some or all of the requirements of the Act. This means filing a formal application with the Council and paying the appropriate fee.

The Council’s Resource Management and Regulation Committee will consider your request.

Exemptions are only granted in exceptional circumstances and the Council may then choose to impose other conditions to satisfy any safety issues.

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 Fencing of Swimming Pools Act, 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.

• Don’t store or leave objects against the fence where they could be used by a child to climb over the safety barrier.

MORE INFORMATION
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