

Home checklist for pool owners to help prepare for inspection

All residential pools must have a compliant pool barrier to restrict access to the pool by unsupervised children under 5 years of age.

What is a pool?

A pool is defined as any excavation or structure of a kind that is used for swimming, paddling or bathing, or any product (other than an ordinary home bath) that is designed or modified to be used for swimming, wading, paddling or bathing; but does not include an artificial lake unless the artificial lake has been designed for swimming/wading/paddling or bathing.

Below is a quick guide for the items we will be looking for when doing a swimming pool fence inspection:

Pool area	
The pool area must only contain the pool/spa pool and items relating to the pool (i.e. no washing lines or gardens).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fencing	
Pool fencing height must be 1.2m high from the outside level of the fence. If your pool enclosure includes a boundary fence, that fence should be no less than 1.8m high.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fence gaps between railings shall be no more than 100mm.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The gap at the bottom of the fence shall be no greater than 100mm.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure no climbable projections or objects are within 1.2m of the top of the pool fencing.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mesh fencing: Check your mesh diameter openings are compliant if you have used mesh in your fence, i.e. for a 1200mm high fence, the opening diameter shall be no more than 10mm.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any rails, rods or wires forming part of a pool barrier that are not themselves vertical shall be at least 900mm apart vertically to restrict climbing.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pool gate	
Pool gate should be self-closing and latching (i.e. have a spring system to automatically shut and latch).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Latch height should be situated 1.5m from the ground.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swing direction of gate should be away from the pool and not into the pool area.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check the gate cannot be lifted off its hinges. Does the latch continue to hold when you try to lift the gate?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please turn over

Hinged/sliding doors (if applicable)

Doors that provide access into the immediate pool area shall be single leaf doors that are not more than 1000mm in width. These doors can be side hinged or sliding.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doors providing access shall have: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Either a self-closing device or an audible alarm; and• A self-latching device that automatically operates on the closing of the door and that must be released manually; and• The release for the latching device is not less than 1500mm from the floor; and• A sign fixed adjacent to the inside door handle at a height between 1200mm and 1500mm stating 'SWIMMING POOL. CLOSE THE DOOR'.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Windows opening into the pool area

Should have an opening limiter in place to restrict the window opening to 100mm maximum.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Small heated pools - cover as barrier (NZBC F9/AS2)

Pool wall height 760mm minimum from ground/floor.	<input type="checkbox"/>
There can be no indentations or projections greater than 10mm on the spa pool wall.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The pool lid must be readily returnable to the closed position and must be able to withstand a minimum 20kg load.	<input type="checkbox"/>
There must be signage on two sides of the pool lid indicating the child safety features e.g. "Warning: This spa pool cover must be kept locked except when under adult supervision".*	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure there is nothing within a 760mm radius of the pool lid that can assist with climbing.	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Pool supply stores may sell appropriate signage.

Note: See the Building (Pools) Amendment Act 2016, Amendments to Building Act 2004, and MBIE F9 Acceptable Solutions, Means of Restricting Access to Residential Pools and New Zealand Standards NZS 8500:2006 Safety Barriers and Fences around Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs for full details as above details are excerpts and not fully comprehensive.

Notes of interest for pool owners

Glazing

It is recommended that any glazing within 2 metres of the swimming pool should have safety glass installed in case of falling into the glazing.

Backflow prevention

Water inlet height - it is recommended that you have backflow prevention in place to prevent contamination of the potable water supply. This can be achieved by an air gap that is at least 25mm above the level of the pool or by adding a backflow prevention device such as a vacuum breaker to your hose tap if this is where you fill the pool from. These can be purchased from plumbing supply shops. This is because swimming pools are a medium risk if the pool water back-flowed into the drinkable water supply. There are at least 19 listed diseases which can be transmitted through human contamination carried in water.

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