

Pool Barrier Checklist

All residential pools must have a compliant pool barrier under Section 162C of the Building Act 2004.

Three-yearly inspections are required to help ensure ongoing compliance with nationwide safety standards that are designed to help keep under five-year-olds safe around pools.

This checklist can be used as a quick guide to check compliance. All new pool barriers and changes to existing barriers require building consent. Please undertake a self-check prior to your inspection, if you need additional time to correct issues please let us know.

Measure pool barrier

- 1200mm height (not a boundary fence).
- 1800mm height (if a boundary fence).
- 100mm (max) gap underneath.
- 100mm (max) gap in any part of the barrier.
- 900mm (min) gap between horizontal rails, gate hinges and/or indentations/projections of 10mm or more.

Vegetation/climbable objects

- No climbable vegetation within 1200mm of barrier (e.g. established flax or grasses, trees, bushes, hedges).
- No climbable objects within 1200mm of barrier (e.g. pot plants, pool equipment, steps/ladder).

Gates

- Self-closing and self-latching.
- 1500mm minimum latch height.
- Swings away from pool (not into pool area).

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.



Doors forming part of the barrier

- Single leaf.
- Self closing, or audible alarm.
- Self-latching, with manual release at 1500mm (min) above ground.

Optional: Sign on inside of door e.g. 'SWIMMING POOL - CLOSE THE DOOR'.

Windows forming part of the barrier

- Restricted to 100mm (max) opening or permanently fixed shut.

Backflow prevention

- Vacuum breaker or air gap (at least 25mm above level of the pool) installed.

Above ground (inflatable, portable, temporary)

- Pool wall is at least 1200mm high on outside. If less than 1200mm a barrier is required.
- Pool wall is free from climbable objects within 1200mm from top of pool wall, except for ladder. The ladder requires a barrier installed under a building consent.

Not sure whether you've got it right? We are here to help, give us a call on 0800 965 468 or email pools@wmk.govt.nz