



## Be smart. Follow the ABC of pool safety.

- **A**lways supervise your children near a pool
- **B**egin swimming lessons for your children
- **C**lose the pool gate and keep your fence maintained

## What causes drownings in swimming pools?

- Poorly maintained or no fences
- Gates that do not close automatically or are deliberately left open
- Lack of water safety skills
- Inadequate supervision
- Lack of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills

## What can I do to help prevent drownings?

- Ensure all pool fences comply with regulations
- Ensure all pool fences are well maintained
- Ensure all pools are fenced, regardless of their location
- Display warning signs advising that a new pool is under construction
- Display CPR procedures signs near pools

## What else can I do?

- Teach children to swim
- Constantly supervise children near swimming pools
- Learn CPR and first aid skills



## Pool fencing laws

For more information on state government pool fencing legislation, contact the Department of Infrastructure and Planning:

Department of **Infrastructure and Planning**  
 PO Box 15009 City East Qld 4002 Australia  
**tel** 1800 153 262 free-call  
**fax** +61 7 3237 1248  
 poolfencing@dip.qld.gov.au

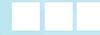
[www.dip.qld.gov.au/poolfencing](http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/poolfencing)



Your local council may have pool fencing laws with additional requirements. You should abide by both state legislation and local laws. Contact your local council for information and advice on the pool fencing standards in your area, or to arrange a compliance inspection.

## CPR signs

For pools constructed on or after 1 October 2003, there must be a sign with CPR instructions clearly displayed near the pool. To obtain a CPR sign contact the Queensland Ambulance Service, the Royal Life Saving Society of Queensland or your local pool shop.



# How safe is your pool?

“remember the **ABC** of pool safety”



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## Why should swimming pools be fenced?

On average, five toddlers drown in Queensland swimming pools every year. Appropriate pool fencing can genuinely contribute to reducing this number.

## Who is responsible?

The owner of the swimming pool is responsible for installing and maintaining a pool fence and gate. If a tenant buys a pool that requires fencing, they are classed as the pool owner and must ensure that the pool is fenced.

## Is having my pool fenced enough?

No. You must also:

- maintain your pool fence and gate latch
- ensure the gate is always closed and the latch locks automatically
- regularly check your fence for damage and ensure objects nearby do not allow a child to climb over the fence.

## What about above-ground pools?

If your pool is above ground, you must ensure that:

- the walls of the pool are at least 1.2 metres high all the way around
- the sides of the pool are free of bracing, indents, projections, and filtration equipment
- any pieces of equipment (e.g. ladders and filters) are enclosed by a fence with a self-closing gate.

## Why do I need to teach my child to swim?

Drowning is the leading cause of preventable death of Australian children under five. On average, one small child drowned every week in Australia over the last 10 years. For every Queensland toddler who drowns, approximately 14 others are taken to hospital emergency departments.

To prevent these accidents, all children should be taught to swim at an early age and be made familiar with water and its dangers.



## Why do I need to supervise my child in a pool?

Many drownings occur in the few seconds that parents are distracted. Supervision is our best weapon against the accidental drowning of small children. 'Constant supervision' means your child is being continuously watched by you or a responsible carer without distraction.

Always remember:

- Regardless of what you are doing, keep watch when children are in or near a swimming pool.
- Never leave children alone in the pool area.
- Floatation devices are no substitute for constant supervision.

***The installation and maintenance of a pool fence reduces the incidence of toddler drownings.***

## Does your fence comply?

### Checklist for pool fences

Before contacting your local council for an inspection, you should check the safety of your pool fence by completing the checklist below\*.

### Check your pool fence

- I have a pool fence separating my pool from my neighbour.
- I have a pool fence preventing access from my house to my pool.
- The outside of my pool fence is at least 1.2 metres high all the way around.
- The bottom of my pool fence is less than 10 centimetres off the ground all the way around.
- All vertical or near vertical fence posts are less than 10 centimetres apart.



- All horizontal or near horizontal fence rails are at least 90 centimetres apart.
- The top of my pool fence is at least 1.1 metres above any low horizontal fence rails.
- My pool fence is well maintained—there are no holes, or broken posts or rails.
- My pool fence is at least 1.2 metres away from any object that would allow a child to climb over the fence—BBQs, trees, rocks, shrubs, furniture, etc.

### Check your pool gate

- My pool gate closes by itself from any open position.
- My pool gate latches by itself when it closes.
- My pool gate opens outwards, away from the pool.
- I never prop open or tie back my pool gate, or otherwise obstruct it from automatically closing.
- I have a latch release which is at least 1.5 metres above the ground or covered so a child cannot open the gate.

### Building a new pool

- I have a sign warning people that I have a pool under construction, and it is clearly visible from the road at the front of my property.
- I have obtained certification for the fence around my new pool prior to filling it with water.

### Check the doors and windows

Check any doors and windows that could allow a child to go from your house directly to the pool area. If the pool was built after 1991, there should be no such doors unless your local council has granted an exemption and it is still valid.

All windows should be child-resistant. This means that windows are at least 1.2 metres above the floor or do not open wider than 10 centimetres or have been fitted with security screens.

\* This checklist applies to pools constructed after February 1991. For more detailed information on pools constructed before February 1991, visit [www.dip.qld.gov.au](http://www.dip.qld.gov.au) or contact your local council.