

Swimming Pool Safety

With over 1300 residential swimming pools in the Shire of Murray maintaining safety standards is crucial. Drowning remains the leading cause of accidental death for children aged zero to five, making effective pool barriers essential.

Inspection Requirements

- All pool barriers must comply with Australian Standard AS 1926.1.
- Inspections by an authorised person are required every **four years**.

Common Issues Inspected

1. **Gates:** Must be self-closing and latch securely from all positions without momentum, including when resting on the latch.
2. **Fence Height:** Minimum height of 1200mm.
3. **Gate Orientation:** Gates should swing away from the pool.
4. **Doors:**
 - Newer pools (post 5 November 2001) cannot have doors leading directly into the pool area, some exception exists for indoor pools.
 - For older pools, self-closing doors are required and one side of any double door must be permanently fixed shut, ensuring they can only be opened with a tool.
5. **Gate Latch:** Activation point must be at least 1500mm high (or shielded 150mm down on poolside).
6. **Gaps:** No gaps greater than 100mm.
7. **Windows:** Windows opening into the pool area can only open a maximum of 100mm or have a permanent protective screen in place. Key locks and fly screen are **NOT** sufficient. Restriction device should require the use of a tool to take it off.
8. **Climbable Objects:** No climbable, objects, handholds or footholds can be located within the non-climbable zones (NCZ1-4), which extend 900mm from the top of the fence. Climbable

objects include anything with a horizontal surface depth greater than 10mm, ie barbeques, pot plants, branches, taps and windowsills are common failure points.

9. Ground Stability: Ground must be stabilised to prevent children from digging under the barrier. Common examples of stabilised surfaces are concrete, pavers and decking.

10. Temporary Fencing: Must comply with safety standards if a pool is under construction or repair. Temporary barriers **MUST NOT** be used more than **90 days** and should meet the same safety standards as permanent barriers.

Additional Requirements for Pools Installed after May 2016

- No climbable items within 500mm of the barrier at ground level.
- Boundary fences must have an 1800mm drop on the pool side.
- No climbable objects within 900mm of the boundary fence (NCZ5).

Pre-Inspection Checklist

- Review your pool barrier before the inspection
- Complete necessary repairs or adjustments in advance.

Resources

- [Swimming Pool Safety Brochure](#). Available for more details on barrier inspection requirements.
- [Building Permit Information](#). Required for new pool installations and fences.

Decommissioning Swimming Pools or Spas

- Proper removal methods include deflation, dismantling, excavation or demolition.
- Materials must go to an approved disposal site; burial on-site is prohibited.
- Remaining excavations must be filled and compacted in 300mm layers.

1. A pool is decommissioned when:
 - It cannot hold 300mm or more of water.
 - Access is removed.
 - The filtration system is removed.
- A building permit is required if planning to cover the pool.

Local Government Notification

- Notify the Shire when a pool or spa is decommissioned.
- An authorised officer will inspect and update the Shire's pool register.

Reinstating a Pool or Spa

- Notify the Shire of Murray before reinstating a decommissioned pool.
- A building permit application will be necessary.