

KEEP WATCH



ROYAL LIFE SAVING
AUSTRALIA

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Australian Government

HOME POOL SAFETY CHECKLIST

Eliminate child drowning this summer.

On average, 17 children aged 0 – 4 years fatally drown each year. While all these drowning deaths are preventable, it is the 45% that occur in home swimming pools where your immediate action can make a difference. Home pool fencing and effective supervision can reduce these tragic drowning deaths to zero. Royal Life Saving is targeting every home pool owner with a basic reminder to check, fix and maintain their home pool and surrounds this summer in order to eliminate child drowning. Disclaimer: This checklist does not substitute for a pool inspection and is for educational purposes only. Pool owners should consider getting a professional assessment of their pool's compliance.

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SWIMMING POOL GATE

- Must open outward from pool
- Latch must be more than 1.5m from the ground
- Must be self closing and self latching
- Must latch shut on the first swing

Does gate swing back to the closed position after being opened?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Replace hinges
Does gate latch and stay closed after it returns to the closed position?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Replace latch
Is gate secure so that it can't be pulled open once latched?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Fix or replace latch
Is gate secure and doesn't open if a child bounces on the bottom rail of the gate?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Fix or replace latch
Are you aware of the dangers of propping the gate open?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Never prop gate open
Is the gap between the gate and the fence less than 100mm?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Reduce the gap

SWIMMING POOL FENCE

- Secure and in good working order
- No more than 100mm from the ground
- Should be at least 1.2m high
- No vertical gaps more than 100mm apart

Are all of the fence panels in place?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Replace fence panels
Are all of the fence panels securely attached?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Secure panels
Have you checked the fence for gaps or holes?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Check and fix fence
Is the distance between the bottom rail and the ground less than 100mm?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Reduce the gap
Have you checked for rusted, loose or missing screws?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Check and replace

AROUND THE SWIMMING POOL FENCE

- Pool aids and toys should be stored securely and out of view
- Objects that could be used to climb the fence should be removed from the area

Have climbable objects near the pool fence been removed? i.e. chairs, ladders, trees, pot plants, BBQ's.	☐ Yes	☐ No - Store objects away from fence
Are toys always removed from the pool and stored securely after use?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Store toys securely
Have trees or shrubs near the fence been trimmed so that children can't use them to climb the fence?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Trim trees and shrubs

SUPERVISION

- **Adult supervision in combination with pool fencing is the most effective method of preventing your child from drowning**

When using the pool are you always within arms' reach of any child under 5 years of age?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Always supervise your child around water
Are you aware of the dangers of leaving older children to supervise younger children when they are using the pool?	☐ Yes	☐ No - An adult should always be supervising children
During parties is an adult designated 'child supervisor' duties around the pool?	☐ Yes	☐ No - An adult should always be supervising children

PUMP, GRATES AND SUCTION

- **Ensure that no fitting is broken or missing**

Are all of the pool's suction fittings and plumbing grates/covers securely in place and in good condition?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Secure loose fittings and replace broken or missing fittings
Do all pool users (including supervising adults) know where and how to switch off the pool/spa pump system in case of an emergency?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Show all people where to switch off the pump prior to using the pool
When using the pool do all people with long hair have it tied back securely in a bun or plait or are they wearing a swimming cap?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Long hair should be tied back or under a cap

EMERGENCY PREPARATION

- **Up to date CPR and First Aid Skills - Visit www.royallifesaving.com.au today to book a course.**
- **Resuscitation Sign prominent in pool area**

Do you or your family members have up to date Resuscitation and First Aid skills?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Enrol in a CPR or First Aid course.
Does your house have a First Aid Kit handy?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Buy First Aid Kit
Is there a current Resuscitation Sign displayed prominently in the pool area?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Buy and install Resuscitation Sign

CHEMICALS

- **Should be stored securely, out of view and out of children's reach**

Are pool chemicals stored securely, out of view and out of reach of children?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Always store chemicals out of reach of children
Do you use protective equipment (gloves, goggles) when handling pool chemicals?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Purchase and use appropriate protective equipment
Do you, when using pool chemicals, add the chemical to water?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Always add chemicals to water NOT water into chemicals
Do you use clean or original chemical containers when mixing chemicals to avoid vapours from incompatible chemicals?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Always use clean or original chemical containers to mix chemicals
Do you read the Safety Directions and Directions For Use label on the pool chemicals before use?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Always read the instructions before using

ELECTRICITY

- **Electricity and water do not mix.**
- **A Residual Current Device (RCD) or Residual Current Circuit Breaker (RCCB) can save lives**

Do you have a RCD or RCCB on power supply?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Have a RCD or RCCB installed
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