

## FACT SHEET 5

### SAFETY BARRIERS

The relevant Australian Standard is designed to deny access to unsupervised children to the swimming pool area.

Although mentioned previously, safety barriers are covered in more detail here because of their importance to pool safety.

A safety barrier is required by legislation for any swimming pool and spa in excess of 300 mm in depth, and must be maintained for the life of the pool and/or spa.

The key elements of the relevant Australian Standard (AS 1926.1) are designed to deny access by unsupervised young children (especially those under 5) to the swimming pool area.

#### FENCING

Fencing must be constructed so that:

- The outside of the fence is an effective barrier to young children
- The fence is permanent
- The fence does not provide access for young children to crawl under or climb over by using foot and/or hand holds
- The fence is not less than 1.2 metres high (Boundary fences are to be not less than 1.8 metres high)
- There is a 900 mm non-climb zone (NCZ) from the top of the fence.

Note: An NCZ is defined as a zone consisting of a barrier as well as the associated space within 900 mm of the barrier, intended to inhibit climbing of the barrier by children. This includes any point along the length of the barrier and its associated space.

#### GATES

Gates to the pool area must:

- Only swing outward from the pool area
- Be self closing from any position
- Be fitted with a latching device that is out of reach of small children (1.5 metres above ground level).

- Have an effective minimum height of 1.2 metres. They must return to the closed position and engage the latch automatically from any position and not re-open without using the manual release mechanism. The latch must be at least 1.5 metres above ground level.

#### WALLS

Child-resistant doors are not considered an adequate safety barrier, and pools must have a fence isolating them from the house.

External walls of a building can be used as swimming pool barriers on the provision that they don't have doors opening to the pool enclosure and windows are restricted to prevent access.

#### DOORS & WINDOWS

Doors from a dwelling are prohibited from opening on to a swimming pool enclosure. The only exception is doors opening on to a swimming pool within an enclosed building.

Acceptable windows are those that:

- Do not open far enough to create an opening of 100 mm
- Have a lowest opening panel of not less than 1.2 metres above the floor
- Have security screens installed or be totally enclosed by grills.

Note: This is a general summary only. For specific requirements refer to AS 1926.1 or for more information contact your local SPASA SA member, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) or local council. In addition, you may need to check with your local council in case you need approval for any upgrading of child safety barriers.

References:

Australian Standard: AS 1926.1

Ministers Specification SA 76D

Development Regulations 2008–Regulation 76D

Development Act 1993, Section 71AA