

FACT SHEET 6

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Australian Electrical Standards are designed to ensure your safety is not compromised when it comes to pool safety.

A pool can provide years of entertainment and pleasure for the whole family, but when it comes to safety, *What you can't see can harm you*. Electrical safety cannot be compromised and the use of a qualified electrician is critical . . . and mandatory.

Before you decide on your dream pool it is critical to consider what electrical requirements may be relevant for your installation. A licensed electrician can assist you from the planning stage right through to installation, and SPASA SA has licensed electrical contractors among its membership you can contact for advice or for any work required.

ELECTRICAL PLANNING

Discuss the pool and/or spa you have chosen and the associated equipment with a licensed electrician before you begin building. An electrical plan at the outset can save you thousands of dollars.

Your electrician will discuss with you:

- The power requirements of your pool or spa
- How many and what type of socket outlets you will need
- What type of system you intend to run and if it is automated.

This will allow your electrician to determine the power requirements to ensure safe operation of your pool and/or spa to protect you and your family.

Understanding the location options for your pool and/or spa is also a valuable thing to discuss with an electrician.

Some slight alterations made early may prevent costly mistakes and minimise your expenditure.

An outdoor 'renovation' often accompanies a pool and spa installation, and planning for this means that you can identify any other associated electrical requirements, such as lighting and appliances.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND FENCES

It is law that for pools and spas where the structure is conductive, all extraneous conductive parts, including the reinforcing metal of the pool and/or spa shell or deck, shall be connected to a bonding connection point. This bonding point shall be installed when the pool and/or spa is installed.

Any conductive fittings within or attached to the pool and/or spa, such as ladders and diving boards, and any fixed conductive material within arm's reach (1.25 metres) of the pool edge, such as fences, lamp standards and pipework, must be connected to this bonding point.

Remember: electricity and water do not mix and this is important to ensure your pool is safe! Failure to install the bonding at the start could not only be dangerous should a fault occur, but also very costly later as you may need to pull up pavers or cut concrete to install the bond.

Electrical certification: Your electrical work must be carried out by a qualified electrician and meet Australian standards; ask to see your electrician's licence. And by law your electrician must supply you with a Certificate of Compliance within 30 days of completion of work.