Pool Safety Solutions

Make This Weekend Your **Home Pool Safety Weekend**

Check It. Fix It. Watch It.

The Pool Safety Solutions Ultimate Checklist

PoolSS wants to remind every pool owner to check, fix and maintain their home pool and surrounds to eliminate child drowning. Drowning deaths are preventable where home pool fencing and effective supervision can reduce tragic drowning deaths to zero.

Swimming Pool Gate

• Must open outward from pool
• Latch must be more than 1500mm from the ground
• Must be self closing and self latching from any position
• 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 the gate open
Is the gap between the gate and the fence less than 100mm?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Reduce the gap
Is the gap between the glass gate and the latch less than 10mm?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Close or fill glass so gap is less than 10 mm
Are the hinges spaced at least 900mm apart, measuring from the top of the bottom hinge to the top of the top hinge?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Reposition hinges or install safety cap to eliminate foothold.

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 internal/boundary barriers been removed from different NCZ Non Climbable Zones or clear spans around the pool? ie projections/ indentations more than 10mm, chairs, ladders, trees, pot plants, BBQ's etc can aid climbing into the pool area?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Move objects away from barrier
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
Are there any steps, objects, or structures within 500mm of the barrier that reduce the height of the barrier to less than 1200mm?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Remove objects or extend barrier height 500mm

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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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 - Call Royal Life Saving today to book a course on 1300 737 763
• 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 a First Aid Kit
Is there a current Resuscitation Sign displayed prominently in the pool area?	☐ Yes	☐ No - Buy and install a 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

Appropriate 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 arm's 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

Visit **poolsafetysolutions.com.au** and learn more about how to prevent children from drowning.

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