

Important Pool Barrier Safety Tips

✓ Latch Height

The activation point of a latch must be at least 1500mm from ground level to prevent children from easily accessing it.

✓ Unobstructed Operation

Avoid using additional locks or security devices that might prevent the pool gate latching mechanism from working freely.

✓ Ground Stability

The area around your pool barrier must be stable to prevent children from digging underneath. Suitable surfaces include concrete, pavers, and decking.

✓ Double Gates

For double gates, one side must be securely fixed to ensure the other side can close and latch properly.

✓ Vehicle Access Gates

Gates designed for vehicle access must not be held open by any device, as this compromises their self-closing function and breaches safety standards.

✓ Electric Gates

Electric gates or roller doors must have backup systems to ensure they close properly during a power outage. They cannot include hold-open mechanisms to remain compliant.

✓ Manual Doors

Manually operated garage doors, including roller doors, sliding doors, and tilt-a-doors, are NOT acceptable pool barriers.



Swimming Pool Barrier Safety

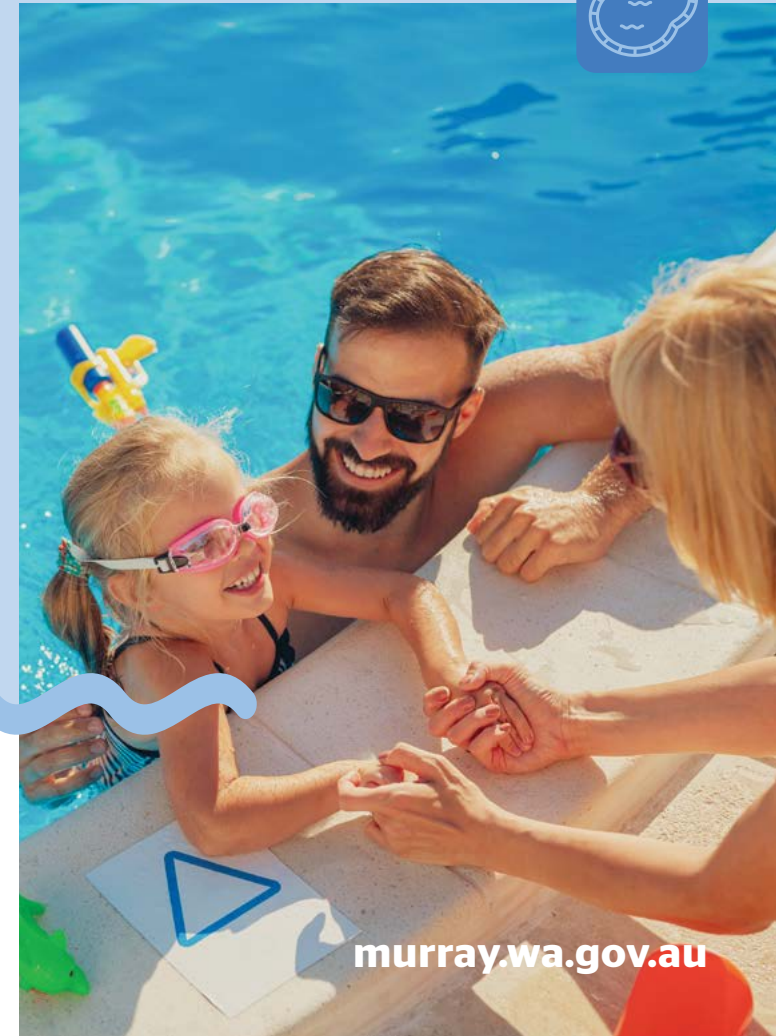


Other information

- › Security-style keyed window locks are not acceptable on their own as a means to make windows in pool barriers comply.
- › The use of lockable covers on spas or other alternative devices does not remove the requirement to install and maintain a barrier.

This information brochure outlines some of the requirements of the *Australian Standard AS1926.1-1993* and *AS1926.1-2012* and the main issues of non-compliance identified by Shire's inspectors.

A full list of pool safety requirements can be obtained from the Department of Commerce's Building Commission by visiting www.commerce.wa.gov.au/publications/rules-pools-and-spas.



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Swimming Pool Barrier Safety

The Shire of Murray is conducting inspections of swimming pool barriers to ensure safety and compliance with Australian Standards AS1926.1 and Building Regulation 2012.

Now is the perfect time to assess your pool barrier to confirm that everything is in good working order and compliant with Australian Standards.

This brochure highlights the most common issues identified by Shire inspectors to assist you in checking your pool barrier. If you discover any maintenance needs, please address them before the inspection takes place.



The three most common reasons pool barriers fail inspections are:

01 The pool gate and/or house door does not self-close from all open positions, including resting on the latch.

- › All gates and allowable doors must be fitted with a device that will return the gate or door to the closed position without the use of manual force. The self-closing function must operate from any position the gate or door is capable of opening from, including when resting on a latch.
- › The self-closing function should not allow the gate to inadvertently bounce back open.

02 Climbable objects existing within 1.2m of the pool fence - Pre May 2016

- › Your fence/barrier will be assessed upon the effective height of 1,200mm – not the overall height. This means if there is a climbable object, such as a pot plant, near the fence then the effective height of the fence will be reduced by the height of the climbable object.
- › A climbable object is anything with a horizontal surface greater than 10mm in depth, which is considered a toe-hold. Commonly encountered climbable objects are barbecues, taps, window sills, planter boxes, trees and shrubs, water features, pool pumps, retaining walls and garden furniture.

03 Windows forming part of the barrier are not adequately screened or restricted to a 100mm maximum opening.

If your sill height is less than 1,200mm when measured from the inside of the building, the window must have one of the following modifications:

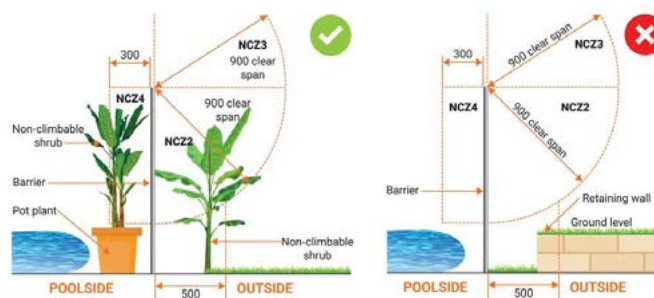
- › They must be covered by bars or security-type mesh screens (fly screens are not usually strong enough) fixed into position with fasteners that require hand tools to remove them (such as an Allen key, spanner or screwdriver). Key-locking devices are not acceptable.

OR

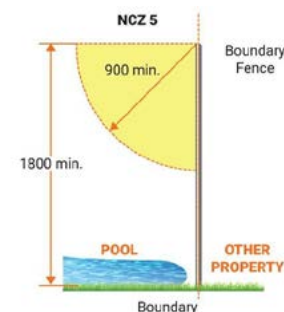
- › They must be fixed in such a way that the window is not capable of opening more than 100mm. This 100mm clearance applies to windows that open in either a horizontal or vertical plane. Key-locking devices are not acceptable and the stopping device must be permanently fixed.

Note: Where plans for a pool were submitted post-May 2016, the *Australian Standard AS 1926.1-2012* has to be applied. The most notable change is regarding the use of a boundary barrier as part of the pool barrier. A post-2016 pool must have a drop (from the top of the fence) of at least 1.8m into the pool area. There can be nothing climbable on the barrier that could aid a child in lowering themselves into the pool area. Please see the diagrams below.

Climbable objects



Pools Non-climbable zone



- › Post-May 2016
- › NCZ: Non-climbable zone
- › Dimensions listed on the diagrams are in millimetres