

Swimming Pool Fencing Checklist

This checklist is designed to help pool owners ensure their pool barriers meet the safety requirements outlined in the **building (Pools) Amendment Act 2016**.

Barrier Requirements

- ☐ The barrier must be at least **1.2 meters high** with no gaps wider than **100 mm**.
 - ☐ There should be **no climbable objects** (e.g., furniture, plants, or retaining walls) within **1.2 meters** of the barrier.
 - ☐ The barrier must be constructed from durable, non-corrosive materials and maintained in good condition.
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Gate Requirements

- ☐ Gates must be **self-closing** and **self-latching**.
 - ☐ The latch must be positioned at least **1.5 meters above ground level** or in a location inaccessible to young children.
 - ☐ Gates should swing outward, away from the pool area, and close securely after each use.
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Access Points

1. Doors and windows that open directly into the pool area must be restricted:
 - ☐ Doors should be self-closing and fitted with compliant latches.
 - ☐ Windows must either have restricted openings or be fitted with compliant locking mechanisms.
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Free-standing above ground swimming pools – Above ground pools

1. The outside face of a pool wall can be a barrier if it is at least 1200mm (1.2m) high and be free from any features that could assist a child in climbing. (e.g. Pool wall support struts, etc.)
2. The access pool ladder needs to be removed when the swimming pool is not in use. Ladder should be stored away or secured in a way that is cannot be readily used by children. Note: Non-removable ladders, pumps, or steps giving access to the pool will need a barrier and/or gate which will require a building consent.

Trees on the Boundary –

1. If a boundary fence forms part of the pool barrier, there must be at least 1000mm between the waters edge and the boundary fence. The boundary fence must be at least 1800mm (1.8m) in height on the pool side and have a 900mm non climbable area on the pool side from the top of the fence.

2. Any climbable objects, including trees and low structures, must be 1200mm (1.2m) from the top of the boundary fence. Where neighbour's trees have tree branches extending over the boundary fence, which is part of the pool barrier, ongoing discussions with neighbour is required regarding pruning back of overhanging branches. The climbable nature of the tree and the climbable nature of the tree branches can affect the consideration of a boundary fence being acceptable as a pool barrier.

Spa Pools and Hot Tubs

1. Spa pools and hot tubs must have a **safety cover** that:
 - ☐ Is lockable.
 - ☐ Can support the weight of an adult.
 2. Alternatively, they must be enclosed by a compliant barrier if the pool is not emptied after each use.
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Pre-Visit Checklist

Before your inspection, please verify the following:

1. Barriers

- ☐ Ensure the pool barrier meets the height and gap requirements.
- ☐ Clear any climbable objects near the fence.

2. Gates

- ☐ Confirm all gates self-close and self-latch properly.
- ☐ Check that the latch is at the correct height and functioning.
- ☐ Are you aware of the dangers of propping the gate open?

3. General Maintenance

- ☐ Inspect barriers, gates, and latches for any signs of wear or damage. Ensure all are in good working order.

4. Access Points

- ☐ Verify that doors and windows opening to the pool area are compliant.

5. Spa Pools and Hot Tubs

- ☐ Check that a compliant safety cover is in place and operational.
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Additional Information

This checklist aligns with the **Building (Pools) Amendment Act 2016**. For detailed guidelines, please visit [Building Performance NZ](#).

For questions or further assistance, please contact your local council or pool inspector.