



Fencing of Swimming Pools



ISO 9001:2000
Form FIB0001-CI1155
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Why Fence Pools?

Swimming and Spa pools are part of our way of life in New Zealand. They provide wonderful opportunities for all the family to gather together and have fun. Unfortunately, They also kill, largely through unawareness of dangers. If you are unaware of the dangers and unprepared to prevent accidents happening, a wonderfully sparkly pool can claim a child's life in minutes.

If you are a parent, grandparent or caregiver, there can be few thoughts more stomach-churning than that of a tiny child floating lifeless in the water. Contrary to belief, children drown quietly. There's little noise as a naturally curious child slips into a pool. The only thing you'll hear forever after is the silence.



SWIMMING AND SPA POOL DROWNINGS

As many as 17 children a year used to drown in home pools. The effect of the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act has been to dramatically reduce the annual toll to five. However, this is still five too many.

As an adult it is your responsibility to ensure the children you are caring for are safe. Unfortunately, the majority of children who drown are alone and unsupervised, or in the care of other children at the time.

However, even the most vigilant parent or caregiver cannot supervise their children every minute of the day. And that is all it takes to lose them forever. Just a minute. A very short phone call. The time to make a quick cup of tea.

That's why you need to fence a pool. Because children simply do not understand the dangers.

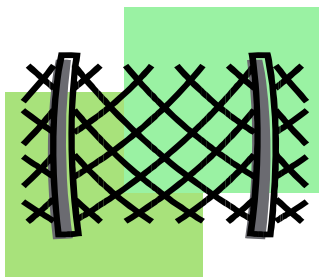


The only safe environment is one where young children cannot get access to a pool without adult supervision.

Today, all pools, swimming and spa, are required under the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987 to be fenced to a standard which will prevent young children from gaining access to the pool.

Ornamental pools, fish ponds and proprietary pools need fencing if the depth of water is 400mm or more.

The purpose of this brochure is to inform you of these standards and to also provide information on exemptions from this Act and how to apply.



Important Note: Construction of a complying pool fence will require a building consent

ALL POOLS MUST BE REGISTERED WITH COUNCIL

To register a pool simply contact the Council to receive a registration form



ABOVE GROUND POOLS WITH 1.2m MINIMUM HIGH SIDES

No fence for the pool is required **IF**:

- The pool steps are removable.
- There is clearance all around the pool of 1.2m minimum.
(clear of sheds, trees, fences, or anything a child could climb on giving them access to the pool)



ALL INGROUND POOLS AND ABOVEGROUND POOLS WITH SIDES LESS THAN 1.2m HIGH, NEED A COMPLYING FENCE.



The following is required in order to achieve a complying swimming pool fence:

1. The fence must not be less than 1.2m high measured from ground level.
2. Gates **must** open outward with no means provided to hold open the gate.
3. When lifted up or down the gate or door does not release the latch device or come of its hinges.
4. Gates must automatically latch, with latch 1.5m above ground level on outside, or 1.2m above ground level on the inside of gate or door.
5. Every gate or door in a pool fence shall be fitted with a device that will automatically return it to a closed position and operate the latch device when the gate is held at a distance of not more than 150mm from the closed position.
6. The fence must be clear of any permanent projection, or object placed on the ground within 1.2m of the fence on the outside, that can act as a step.
7. No horizontal rails with less than 900mm gap between the rails on the outside of the fence.
8. No gaps between vertical cladding to be more than 100mm wide.
9. No gaps under the fencing or gates to be more than 100mm wide.
10. The construction of a pool fence requires a building consent.

10. Mesh or netting in the fence must have no opening greater than 10mm for a 1.2m high fence or more than 50mm for a 1.8m high fence.
11. A suitable backflow preventer (vacuum breaker) fitted to the tap used for filling the pool.
12. If house or shed doors open into the pool area, an application for special exemption is required under section 6 of the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act.
13. Any windows that open into the pool area must have restrictors on them limiting the opening to 100mm.
14. If the fence is horizontally close boarded, the maximum gap between each board is 10mm.



Other Safety Issues to Think About.

- **Is there a first aid kit available?**
- **Are the pool chemicals stored safely?**
- **Does the pool surround have a non-slip surface?**

EXEMPTIONS FROM THE FENCING OF SWIMMING POOLS ACT 1987

Under the Act, District Councils are given the authority to provide exemptions. When an application is received it is forwarded to the Environmental Committee for a hearing. It is up to each of the different Councils to decide just what exemptions are going to be approved. There is a fee for this of \$150 which is to be paid at time of application.

The Marlborough District Council has approved exemptions in the past for the following.

- Gates that open in towards a swimming pool.
- Lockable spa pool covers.
- Doors in buildings that open directly into the swimming pool area.
- Safety pool covers specially designed for the purpose.
- Exemptions are only granted with conditions that will vary from case to case.

**For further information on any pool fencing matter,
please call the Council's Customer Service Centre
(03) 520 7400**

**Marlborough District Council
Seymour Square
PO Box 443
Blenheim 7240
www.marlborough.govt.nz**