

GUIDELINES

for

Fencing of Swimming Pools

This Central Government legislation requires every owner, or person who has possession of the property on which a pool is situated, to ensure that, unless granted an exemption (which requires a written letter of application), the immediate pool area, is fenced in compliance with the Act at all times when the Act applies, ie: when it is filled or partially filled with water.

Territorial Authorities are required to ensure that the Act is complied with within its district. District Council officers are conducting ongoing checks of all properties in an endeavour to ensure that the district's pools comply with the regulations.

Your co-operation as a pool user/owner in achieving this is sought, as failure to adequately fence your pool may result in the Act's penal clauses (up to \$500 and \$50 per day fines) being invoked.

Below are listed guidelines to fencing swimming pools. These however are only acceptable solutions. Other means of fencing can also be accepted provided the objectives of the code are met.

1. **The 'immediate' pool area must be fenced. This area is defined as that which is used for the pool activity only, eg: excludes gardens, clotheslines, sheds, etc**
2. **The height of the fence must be at least 1.2 metres above the ground on the outside of the fence and with no more than 100mm clearance above the ground.**
3. **If the fencing material is to be made of netting or similar and the openings in the material are more than 10mm across, the fence must be 1.8 metres high. No openings in the material may be more than 50mm in any direction.**
4. **If vertical palings, rods, etc, are to be used, they must be not more than 100mm apart. All horizontal members shall be spaced 900mm or more apart unless the outside of the fence is close-boarded.**
5. **All supports must be on the inside of the fence and not accessible for climbing from the outside.**
6. **All gates or doors must not open inward towards the pool and must close and latch automatically from a stationary position 150mm from the fully closed position.**
7. **If the latch control is on the outside, it must be at least 1.5 metres off the ground, or if placed on the inside, the lowest part of any hole through which it may be operated, must be at least 1.2 metres above the ground.**
8. **Doors in the walls of buildings giving access to the pool area must also comply, and if necessary, child-proof locks should be fitted.**

Remember, that if you are installing a new swimming or spa pool. Building Consent is required in ALL cases. It is a simple process and usually requires minimal detail for most pools.