



# Gate hinges in private swimming pool safety barriers – AS 1926.1

**This document provides guidance on the compliant installation locations of gate hinges used in private swimming pool safety barriers.**

Part 8 Division 2 of the Building Regulations 2012 generally requires that the safety barriers for private swimming pools (pools), depending on the age of the pool, comply with Australian Standard:

- AS 1926.1-1993 incorporating amendment no 1, for pre-May 2016 pools; or
- AS 1926.1-2012 and AS 1926.2-2007 incorporating amendments no 1 and 2, for post-May 2016 pools.

Both editions of AS 1926.1 have requirements for indentations and projections that exceed 10mm in depth that could form a handhold or foothold. These requirements include, but are not limited to, that they be spaced at least 900mm vertically apart. These requirements also apply to gate hinges.

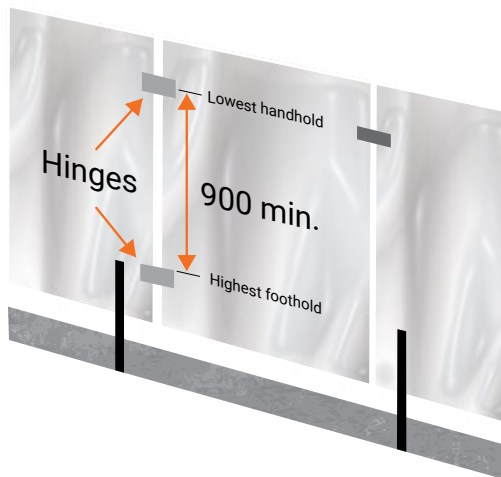


Figure 1: The handhold and foothold locations of hinges are typically at the top of the hinge, but this may vary between different brands. The lowest handhold must be spaced at least 900mm vertically from the highest foothold.

Typically the handhold or foothold provided by a gate hinge is the upper most surface of the hinge. However this is not always the case, sometimes other components within the hinge, including upper and lower horizontal flanges, can form a handhold or foothold. As such, it must be ensured that the lowest handhold is spaced at least 900mm vertically from the highest foothold.

Where indentations and projections are sloped at 60° to the horizontal they are generally not considered to be handholds or footholds and are permitted to be within the 900mm area. However, some gate hinges, even though they may have a 60° top surface, have additional adjoining horizontal surfaces that exceed 10mm and as such those surfaces are not permitted to be within the 900mm area.

For simplicity it is suggested that, regardless of indentations and projections, the bottom of the top hinge be spaced at least 900mm from the top of the bottom hinge. This ensures compliance with this requirement.

Note: Pool gates are statistically considered to be an area of high risk, generally being identified as the most common:

- avenue of access for young children that drown in pools; and
- element of non-compliance when inspected.

**Disclaimer** – The information contained in this industry bulletin is provided as general information and a guide only. It should not be relied upon as legal advice or as an accurate statement of the relevant legislation provisions. If you are uncertain as to your legal obligations, you should obtain independent legal advice.

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