



Rules for portable pools

There are many types of portable pools, ranging from small plastic or inflatable paddling pools, specifically designed for young children, to larger more solid inflatable pools or flexible sided pools with frames that can accommodate adults.

Did you know?

By law, swimming and spa pools containing water more than 30cm deep must have effective safety barriers that restrict access by young children. **This includes portable pools.**

Young children can drown in portable pools in a matter of seconds if unsupervised.

Any pool that is designed for swimming, wading and paddling that contains water more than 30cm deep, must be enclosed by an effective safety barrier that complies with the laws. Please refer to the summarised checklist overleaf.

Does your safety barrier tick all the boxes?

If not, you risk the lives of young children and may face substantial fines or prosecution.

This summarised checklist is not exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with the **Rules for Pools and Spas** brochure.

Check the pool gate

- Does the pool gate close by itself from any open position?
- Does the gate have a self-latching device?
- Does the gate open away from the pool?
- Is the latch release mechanism at least 1.5 metres above the ground?

Check the pool fence

- Is the fence fixed securely in place?
- Is the outside of the fence at least 1.2 metres high?
- Are all vertical uprights in the fence spaced 10cm or less apart?
- Is there at least 90cm between handholds and footholds?
- Is the bottom of the fence 10cm or less from the ground?
- Is the surface directly beneath the fence stable and not easily eroded?
- If a boundary fence forms part of the pool safety barrier, is it at least 1.8 metres high?

Check climbable objects

Barbecues, flower-pots, trees, retaining walls, plumbing, cubby houses, toys, outdoor furniture, pool pumps etc. may all help a young child to climb into the pool area.

- Is the pool area clear of any items that would assist a child to climb over the fence or reach the latch on the gate that provides access to the pool area?

Check windows

Is the openable portion of a window that forms part of a safety barrier:

- permanently restricted to open no more than 10cm by a device that requires the use of a tool to remove it?

or

- covered by bars or a metal screen, fixed in place by a device that requires the use of a tool to remove it?

Please note that key locks are not considered to be a permanent restriction.

Doors

- Doors with direct access to the pool area require local government approval.
- Pet doors are not permitted.

More information

Visit www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/portable-pools to download the Rules for Pools and Spas brochure, which provides further comprehensive guidance on the pool safety barrier requirements in Western Australia.

A hard copy is available by calling the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Building and Energy Division on **1300 489 099** or email be.info@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Help save young lives in and around water

- ✔ Never prop a pool gate open.
- ✔ Ensure you always actively supervise children within arm's reach whenever they are in, or around the water regardless of how much water is in the pool.
- ✔ Never rely on older children to supervise younger children, no matter how confident you are about their ability.
- ✔ For smaller pools ensure they are emptied and stored safely away from young children after use.
- ✔ Ensure the pool cannot fill with rainwater or water from sprinklers.
- ✔ Ensure the barrier is clear of climbable objects.

Find out more at: www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/portable-pools

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