

## Our first priority is safety

Children are inquisitive and we can often underestimate their agility in accessing areas we may have assumed "childproof".

It's also impossible to have eyes on children every moment of the day, but seconds is all it can take for a child to drown.

Drowning continues to be one of the leading causes of accidental death for Australian children under 5 years of age and 67% of these occur in swimming pools.

A large number of drownings still occur due to faulty or non-compliant barriers.

At Shoalhaven City Council, our first priority is safety. Our aim is to help you avoid the tragedy of a child drowning in a pool that you own.

Whether you have a new or existing pool or spa, our Compliance Officers can advise you on the correct Child Resistant Barriers you need. These barriers are the best defence in preventing children from drowning when you are not there.

Together, let's keep our children safe.



## Keeping pool time fun and safe

Child Resistant Barriers can only do their job when you use them correctly.

- Never prop open the pool gate.
- Maintain, repair or replace the safety latch if it isn't working properly.
- Climbable objects, such as furniture, toys, pot plants and BBQs should be removed from around the fence.
- Attend a first aid course and update CPR skills every year – first aid is an essential skill for all parents and older family members.
- Have a resuscitation CPR chart displayed on your pool fence.
- Teach your children to swim.
- Always watch your child when they're wearing flotation devices, to make sure they don't tip upside down or slip through into the water.
- Neighbours' pools can also be a danger to your child. If your neighbour's pool isn't properly fenced, it might be worth letting them know about relevant safety regulations. Keep an eye on your child to make sure they don't make unsupervised visits, and tell them about the dangers of swimming without an adult.



**A Child-Resistant Barrier that complies with the Australian Standards does not mean it is 'child-proof'.  
There is no substitute to supervision!**

**Shoalhaven**  
City Council  
We're here to help ✓

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[shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](http://shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au)    

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**Shoalhaven**  
City Council

# Your Pool. Your Responsibility.

**Because a child can drown in seconds.**



## Swimming pool and spa safety and certification.

A guide for property owners, landlords and private and commercial holiday operators.

[shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](http://shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au)    

## What type of pools need fencing?

### Permanent Swimming Pools & Swim Spa Pools

- Permanent Child Resistant fencing

### Spa Pools (also known as Hot Tubs or Jacuzzi)

- Permanent Child Resistant fencing or
- Lockable cover

For **Indoor Pools and Spas** contact Council.

### Demountable, inflatable and portable pools

ANY pool capable of being filled with water greater than 300mm in depth must have permanent Child Resistant fencing.

Smaller depth pools do not require fencing but children should still be supervised during use and the pool emptied after use.

**There are possible insurance and legal implications for property owners of residential and holiday lettings if their pool is non compliant.**

## How to get your swimming pool or spa certified

If you are the owner of a property that has a swimming pool or spa, **you** are responsible for certification.

**Certification is required for properties used for private or commercial holiday letting. Also, for all properties prior to their sale or lease.**

While it is not mandatory for residential properties to have certification, Council encourages owners to do so, to eliminate potential hazards.

- To obtain certification, firstly register your pool or spa on the NSW State Government's online register. [www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au](http://www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au)
- After registering your pool, contact Shoalhaven City Council to apply for a Certificate of Compliance for a Swimming Pool. This certificate certifies that the swimming pool complies with the relevant legislative and safety requirements and will be valid for 3 years, so long as the fencing remains compliant in that time.

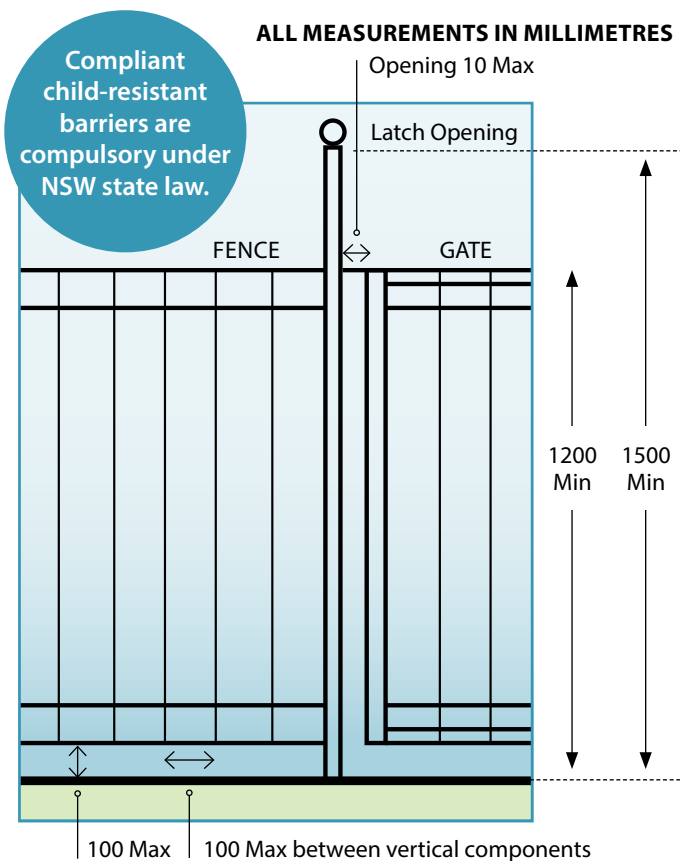
## What happens when a Council Pool Compliance Officer inspects my property?

When you arrange for an inspection, the Officer will do an inspection of the site to see if it meets with the NSW Safety Pool standards.

The Officer will be able to advise you on site whether your pool has met these standards or not.

If your pool is compliant you will be issued with a Pool Compliance Certificate.

If your pool is not compliant, the officer will issue you with a list of items you will need to do before you can be issued with certification. You will be given 90 days to complete this.\*



*\*If Council considers your pool a significant risk to public safety a direction or notice may be issued with specific compliance periods listed in the notice or direction.*

A Compliance Officer will then follow up with an inspection after this time to see if the pool meets with safety standards.

Alternatively you can organise with Council beforehand to make an appointment for a follow up inspection.

Our aim is to help you achieve certification for your pool however Council may issue fines for people failing to act or properly comply with the NSW Pool Safety Standard.

Shoalhaven City Council's Swimming Pool Compliance Officers are always up-to-date with current legislation regarding child-resistant barriers around all types of swimming pools and spas.

## How much does certification cost?

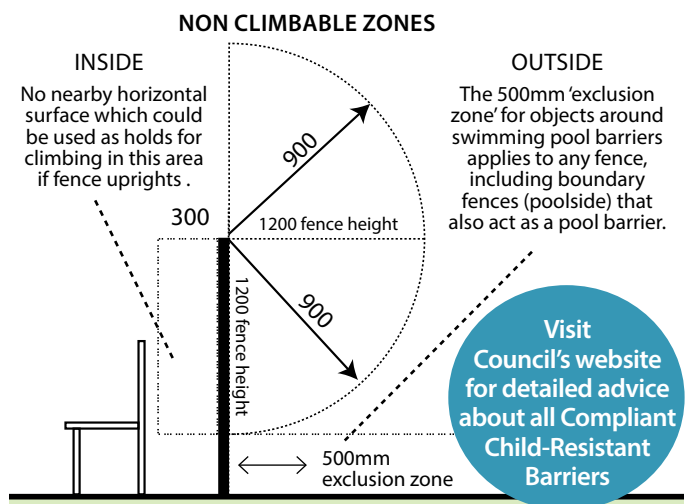
First inspection \$150

Follow up inspections \$100 on each inspection until the swimming pool is certified compliant.

## What does a Compliant Child-Resistant barrier look like?

These diagrams are a basic guide only and do not cover all types of barriers, however older style fencing will not have some of these essential safety features.

Whatever type of pool or spa you have, the barrier must be effective on all sides. A solid yard fence may be included as part of your barrier.



We're here to help ✓

Contact our Compliance Team on 4429 3111 or visit [shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](http://shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au)