

Home Swimming Pool Safety Reforms

Fact Sheet - Safety Standard for Pool Barriers

Regulatory reforms will be introduced in 2023 that will require all home swimming pools to have a barrier compliant with modern safety standards (within a specified transition period).

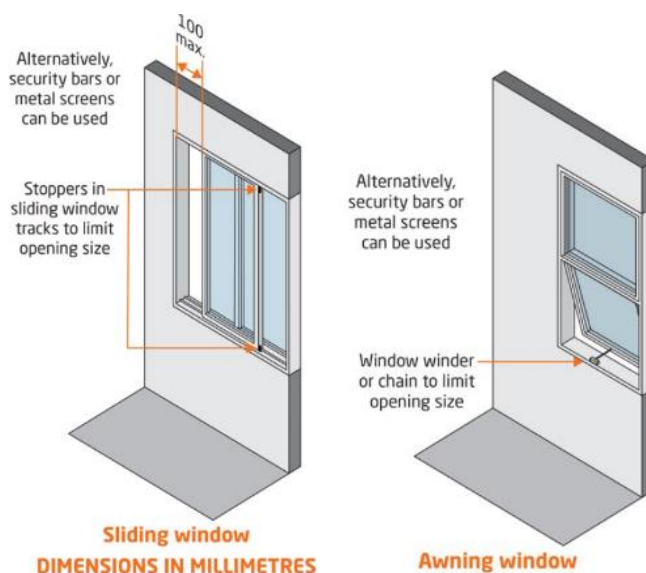
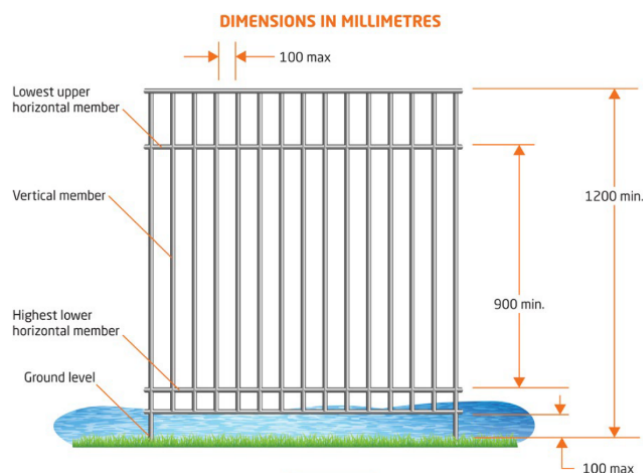
The reforms will apply to all ACT home swimming pools and spa pools that are capable of containing water to a depth greater than 30cm and are associated with a residential building such as a house, unit, townhouse or block of apartments. Exemptions will be available for specific circumstances.

The prescribed safety standard will be the current version of the Building Code of Australia that requires compliance with Australian Standard AS1926.1 (2012) and AS1926.2 (2007).

The reforms are anticipated to commence in late 2023 with associated transitional arrangements. These arrangements are designed give property owners time to comply with the prescribed safety standard and support the community and industry to meet the new requirements. The transition period arrangements will be determined following public consultation.

POOL BARRIERS

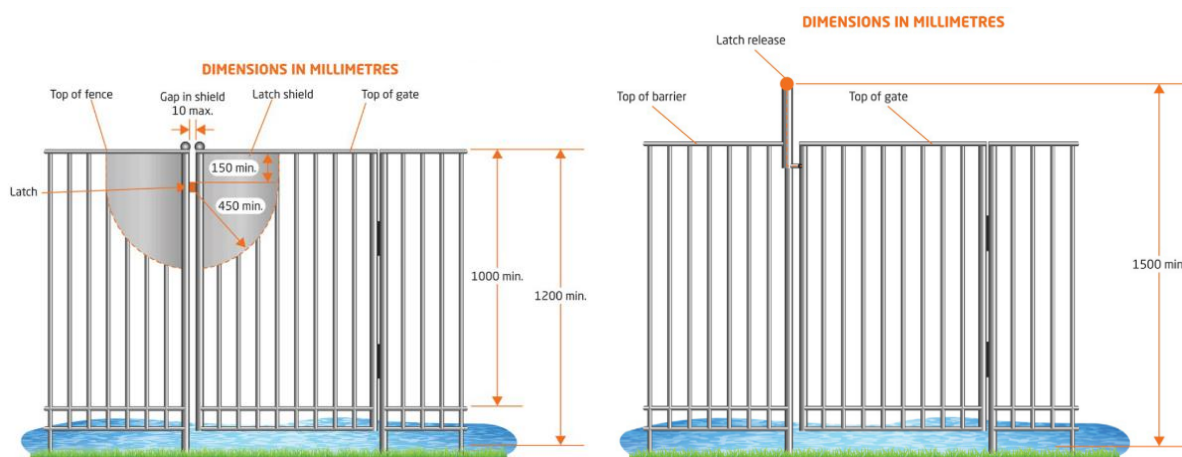
- ✓ Must be secure and in good working order.
- ✓ The pool barrier located within the property (including the gate) must be at least 1.2 m high all the way around the pool (measured from outside the pool area), with a non climbable zone of at least 90 cm (i.e. no hands or foot holds).
- ✓ If a boundary barrier (e.g. your property fence) forms part of the pool barrier it must be at least 1.8 m high (measured from inside the pool area), with no climbable points within the top 90 cm (i.e. no hand or foot holds).
- ✓ The bottom of the barrier must be no more than 10 cm from the ground.
- ✓ No openings in the barrier can be larger than 10 cm.
- ✓ Objects or level changes that reduce the height of the barrier must be located at least 50 cm away from the barrier.
- ✓ If opening windows form part of the pool barrier and are less than 1.8 m above the pool area ground level, they must not open more than 10 cm (without the use of a tool) or should be shielded (i.e. by bars or a metal screen).



Diagrams for Barriers and Gates based on figures from AS 1926.1-2012. © Standards Australia Limited

POOL GATE

- ✓ Must open outward from pool.
- ✓ Must be self-closing and self-latching from any open position (even slightly ajar).
- ✓ The latch release mechanism must be more than 1.5 m from the ground or, if lower, shielded to restrict access to children who may be able to reach the mechanism.



EXAMPLES OF COMPLIANCE WITH AUSTRALIAN STANDARD AS1926

The following diagrams are examples of pool barriers that comply with Australian Standard AS1926.

