

Pool Barrier Safety

Factsheet



A pool barrier helps restrict access to a swimming pool or spa pool area. It includes traditional pool fencing, walls, boundary fencing and child resistant gates and doors.

Safety standards for pool barriers are designed to help restrict the access of children under five years old to a swimming pool or spa pool area. Pool barriers will not prevent access in every situation. While they are a vital safety measure, barriers alone should not be relied on to protect against the risks of drowning. Children should always be supervised closely in and around swimming pools and spas.

Adult supervision, in combination with pool barriers, is the most effective method of preventing children drowning.

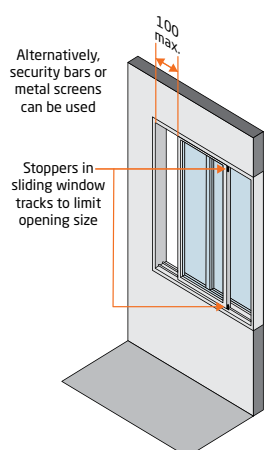
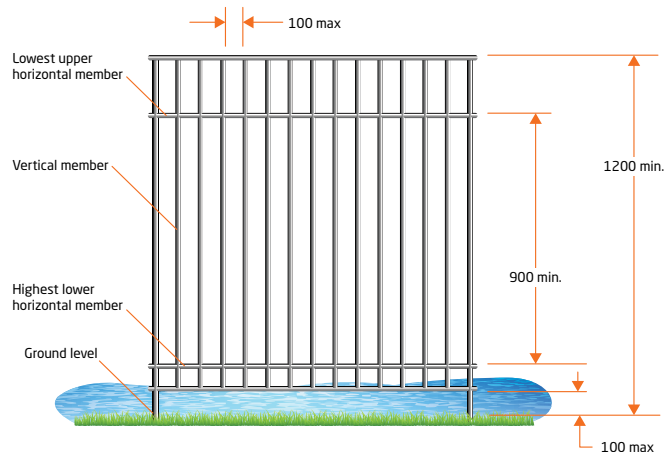
Disclaimer: This factsheet provides general information about best practice safety standards for home swimming pool and spa barriers. This factsheet has been produced for information purposes only. Pool and spa owners should obtain a professional assessment if they wish to know if their pool or spa meets best practice safety standards.

POOL BARRIERS

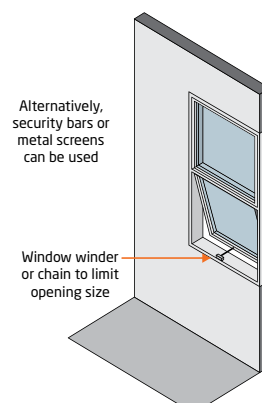
- > Should be secure and in good working order.
- > The pool barrier located within the property (including the gate) should be at least 1.2 m high all the way around the pool (measured from outside the pool area), with a non climbable zone of at least 90 cm (i.e. no hands or foot holds).
- > If a boundary barrier (e.g. your property fence) forms part of the pool barrier it should 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 should be no more than 10 cm from the ground.
- > No openings in the barrier should be larger than 10 cm.
- > Objects or level changes that reduce the height of the barrier should 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 should not open more than 10 cm (without the use of a tool) or should be shielded (i.e. by bars or a metal screen).

Effective barrier height

DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES



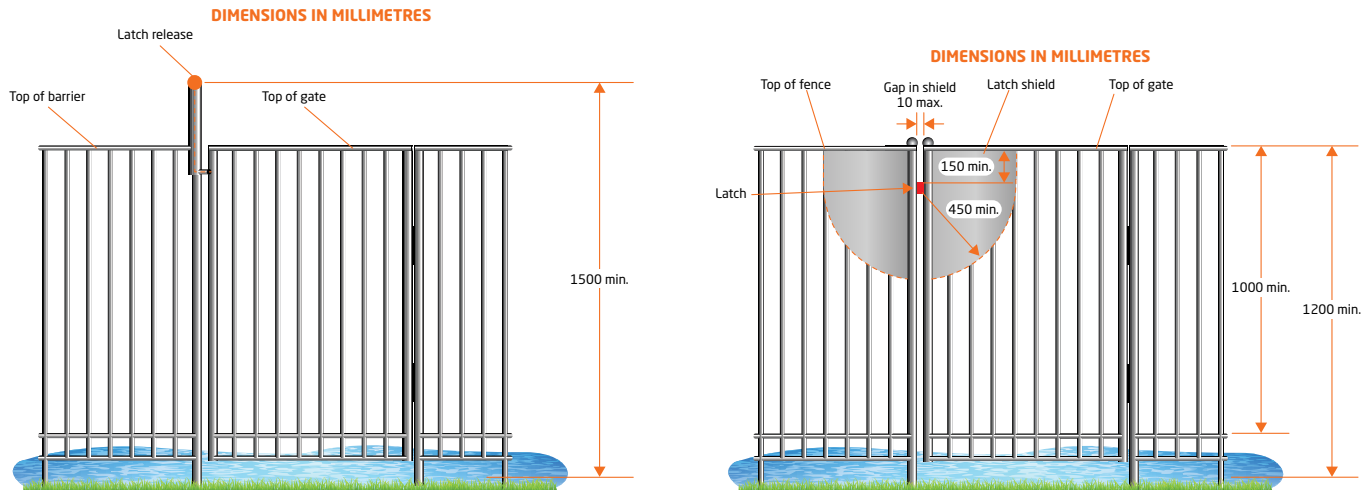
Sliding window
DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES



Awning window

POOL GATE

- > Should open outward from pool.
- > Should be self-closing and self-latching from any open position (even slightly ajar).
- > The latch release mechanism should 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 BEST PRACTICE SAFETY STANDARDS

» The following diagrams are examples of pool barriers that comply with best practice safety standards.



AROUND THE POOL BARRIER

- > Pool aids and toys should be stored securely and out of view.
- > Objects that could be used to climb the fence (e.g. plants, tree branches, chairs) should be removed from the area.
- > Consider what is on the other side of a boundary fence that children may climb on to get over the fence.

GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

- > Always closely supervise children in and around pools.
- > When more than one adult is present, assign an adult as the designated 'child supervisor'.
- > Be prepared for an emergency with CPR and first aid skills. Put a resuscitation sign in the pool area.
- > Avoid putting barbecues and eating areas in the pool area.
- > Check all pumps and grates are secure and in good working order.
- > Store pool chemicals securely, out of view and children's reach. Use only in accordance with the instructions for use.

Further information about pool barrier safety can be accessed through Swimming Pool and Spa Association (SPASA) Australia:

<https://www.spasa.com.au/pool-and-spa-owners/faqs-tips-and-tricks/pool-and-spa-safety-rules>

Further information about home swimming pool safety can be accessed through Royal Life Saving Australia:

www.royallifesaving.com.au/stay-safe-active/locations/water-safety-at-home