



A GUIDE TO **FENCING YOUR SWIMMING POOL**

New Zealanders love to swim. How do we know?

There are over 66,000 pools at homes across the country, and at least 1500 currently registered in Waipa. It is the responsibility of all pool owners to ensure their pool is safe for everyone.

BUILDING ACT & BUILDING CODE:

The Building Act was amended by the Building Pools Amendment Act 2016 and the new requirements came into force on 1 January 2017. When the amendments came it to effect the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987 was repealed. A new Building Code Clause F9 Means of Restricting Access to Residential Pools, along with acceptable solutions have been created as a means of compliance to help keep Kiwi kids safe around pools.

LET'S LOOK AT THE RULES:

DOES MY POOL NEED A BARRIER?

Any pool that can be filled to a depth of 400mm or more must have a physical barrier like a fence, gate or door, regardless if they are full, or have just a little bit of water in them.

Empty pools will require a barrier if there is a fall of 1m or greater into the pool (refer Building Code F4).

That means your paddling pool that comes out every summer needs to have a proper barrier around it.

SO, WHAT SORT OF BARRIER DO I NEED?

A barrier can include a fence, gate or even a door.

The most important rule for your barrier is it must be able to restrict access to the pool for unsupervised kids under five years old.

GATES AND DOORS MUST:

- Open away from the pool.
- Restrict access to young children when closed.
- Close automatically.

BARRIERS MUST:

- Be at least 1.2m high, measured from the ground.
- Not be easily climbed by young children.
- No objects within 1.2m of the barrier.

SMALL HEATED POOLS

The exception to these barrier rules are some small heated pools like a spa. A lid or safety cover can be used as a barrier instead of a fence as long as:

- The water surface is 5m² or less.
- The side walls of the pool are at least 760mm high and cannot be climbed.

YOUR COVER MUST:

- Include a sign that shows its safety features.
- Restrict entry of children under 5 years old when closed.
- Be able to hold a foreseeable load.
- Be closed easily.

If a safety cover meets these requirements then you don't need to get your spa or small heated pools inspected.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS AWAIPA POOL OWNER:

There are two things you can do as a pool owner to help us make sure our district's pools are safe for everyone.

1. Update your details.

Get in touch with us to update your details so we can keep a track of the pools in our district.

2. Book an inspection.

We need to inspect everyone's pools every three years in order to meet the new requirements. Give us a call to book your inspection now.

HOW ARE THESE RULES ENFORCED?

SWIMMING POOL INSPECTIONS

All swimming pools must be inspected every three years. You can choose to have your pool inspected by an independent registered swimming pool inspector or by Council.

Waipa District Council charges the following:

- Initial inspection fee: \$100 inc GST.
- Additional fee for failed inspections: \$57 inc GST.

BETTER ENFORCEMENT POWERS

If your pool does not meet the legal requirements, Council can issue a notice to fix giving you the chance to sort the problem. If you don't fix the problem within 15 working days, then Council can issue an infringement notice or you may face prosecution.

THIS BOOKLET IS INTENDED AS A GUIDE ONLY.

For more information give us a call on 0800 WAIPA DC, 0800 924 723 or visit www.waipadc.govt.nz