



## CONSUMER REFERENCE GUIDE

# Pool Safety Barriers

## Why pool safety barriers matter

Pool and spa barriers help reduce the risk of young children accessing the water unsupervised. A compliant, well-maintained barrier adds an important layer of protection but should always be used alongside active adult supervision.

## Types of fences and barriers

### Temporary pool fence

A temporary pool fence is used while a pool or spa is being built, renovated, installed, or when the permanent barrier is removed or damaged. These fences are covered in **AS 4687.4, Temporary fencing and hoardings – Part 4: Temporary Swimming Pool Fencing**.

### Pool safety barrier

A pool safety barrier is a permanent child-resistant structure designed to reduce unsupervised access to a pool or spa. These barriers are covered in **AS 1926.1, Swimming pool safety – Safety barriers for swimming pools**

### Boundary barrier

A boundary barrier, such as a shared fence with a neighbouring property, which forms part of the pool safety barrier must have a minimum height of 1800 mm, measured from the pool side (inside).

## Key features of a compliant pool safety barrier

- 1 Barrier height**  
Height requirements help reduce the likelihood of climbing or easy access. Example: *A pool safety barrier located within the property must be at least 1200 mm high, measured from the outside.*
- 2 Non-climbable zones (NCZs)**  
Pool safety barriers are designed with a non-climbable zone. Barriers must not have handholds or footholds that aid climbing, and items such as pot plants, furniture, climbable structures, or equipment should not be placed within the zone.
- 3 Openings**  
Openings between vertical members on a barrier or fence should be no more than 100 mm wide.
- 4 Windows facing the pool area**  
Windows opening into a pool area that are less than 1800 mm above floor level must have the operable portion either restricted to a maximum opening of 100 mm or protected by a suitable barrier.

## Compliance and certification

Barrier products may be supported by different types of documentation showing how they meet relevant requirements. Ask your installer or primary contractor to provide their compliance documentation if you have any concerns.

**Important Notes:** Pool requirements can vary between states and territories. Your local council or state building regulator should be able to guide you through the appropriate requirements.

