

**OVERVIEW**

The information contained in this fact sheet is only applicable where a building approval is required for building works associated with a single residential dwelling. This information is a guide only and not intended as a substitute for consulting the relevant legislation or for obtaining appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances. Swimming pools and spas are defined as a class 10b structure under the Building Code of Australia.

BUILDING APPROVAL

In accordance with the *Queensland Building Act 1975*, a building approval is required for the construction of a swimming pool or spa.

The following are not considered a swimming pool and not required to be fenced in accordance with the pool fencing legislation:

- A fish pond or pool used for ornamental purposes
- A dam or tank solely or mainly used, designed, manufactured or adapted to be solely or mainly used for aquaculture or water storage
- A river, creek, stream, canal or watercourse in which water flows permanently or from time to time, or a lake or other natural collection of water (whether permanent or not)
- A portable wading pool that:
 - a) Is capable of being filled with water to a depth of no more than 300mm and
 - b) has a volume of no more than 2000L and
 - c) has no filtration system

For assistance with lodging a swimming pool or pool fence building application with Council, refer to the [Application Lodgement Checklist for Domestic Residential Swimming Pool and Pool Fence](#).

POOL FENCE (SWIMMING POOL BARRIER)

Any pool or spa capable of being filled to a depth of 300mm or greater must be enclosed by a compliant fence. For further information on compliant pool fencing refer to the [MP3.4 Swimming Pool Barriers - Queensland Development Code](#). Prior to filling any pool or spa a compliance certificate must be obtained.

REPLACEMENT OR MODIFICATION TO AN EXISTING POOL FENCE

Prior to undertaking any replacement or modification work on an existing pool fence, you should consult with a licensed pool safety inspector. A list of licenced pool safety inspectors can be found on the [QBCC website](#).

ADJOINING PROPERTIES

If the proposed building or structure has the potential to impact on a neighbour, it is recommended that you consult with that neighbour before starting any work. Consultation with your neighbour may help to avoid disputes later. Further information about avoiding disputes can be found on the [Queensland Government](#) website.

If the **adjoining property owner is Council**, contact Council's Property Team on (07) 3810 6617 to initially discuss your proposal.

THE PUMP

Where should the pool pump equipment be located?

The noise from swimming pool and spa pump equipment may be considered excessive under the Environmental Protection Legislation. It is suggested that the pump equipment is located as far as possible from adjoining properties, or housed in an enclosure, such as a pump shed.

WATER QUALITY

The water in a pool should be maintained in a condition suitable for safe swimming. Pool water must be sterilized (e.g. chlorinated) and properly filtered, with the correct chemical balance maintained.

RESUSCITATION SKILLS AND LIFE SAVING NOTICE

Take the time to learn CPR and keep your skills up to date. A pool must display a resuscitation sign. In accordance with the *Building Regulation 2006*.

The sign must—

- a) be attached to the barrier for the pool, or displayed near the pool, so that the sign is conspicuous and easily visible to anyone near the pool; and
- b) be at least 300mm x 300mm in size; and
- c) be made of durable and weatherproof material; and
- d) include a statement that is prominent on the sign explaining to anyone reading the sign how to act in an emergency, including, for example, telephoning for an ambulance, staying with the injured person, calling for help and providing first aid; and

Example of what sign must state—

'In an emergency phone 000 and ask for ambulance. Stay with injured person, call for help and resuscitate.'

- e) show information about the procedures for providing first aid, including performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation in the way stated in the document called 'ANZCOR Guideline 8—Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)' published by the Australian Resuscitation Council in January 2016. A copy of this document is available on the Australian Resuscitation Council's website at www.resus.org.au.

Your local swimming pool supply shop generally has resuscitation signage available for purchase.

FURTHER INFORMATION

All swimming pool and spas installation work should be carried out by suitably qualified and licenced persons.

Additional links:

- Ipswich City Council applicable [fees and charges](#).
- [Building a Swimming pool - how to get started](#) from the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC).
- [Pool safety information](#) from the QBCC.
- [Building or renovating](#) information from the QBCC.
- [Pool or spa registration frequently asked questions](#) on the Department of Housing and Public Works website.

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this document is general in nature, and before relying on the material in any important matters, users should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for their purpose. This document is not intended as a substitute for consulting the relevant legislation or for obtaining appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances. The Ipswich City Council does not accept responsibility or liability for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred as a result of the use of, or reliance on, information contained in this document. These guidelines are not intended to be, and should not be relied upon as, the ultimate and complete source of information on swimming pools and spas of a dwelling.

For further information, please contact Council's Planning and Development Department on (07) 3810 6888.