

# Pool Safety



**UPERVISE**  
around the pool



**NCLOSE**  
the pool with a fence



**CTIVELY**  
check the pool gate and fence



**EARN**  
CPR and to swim



[Ipswich.qld.gov.au/seal](http://Ipswich.qld.gov.au/seal)



The SEAL Pool Safety Program was initiated in January 2021 in response to child drowning statistics, which showed pool drownings as being a leading cause of death for children under the age of five in Queensland.

SEAL is designed to encourage active adult and child participation in programs such as learning to swim, supervision, CPR and pool fence compliance in order to educate the community to the benefits of water safety.

## SUPERVISE IN THE POOL

Active adult supervision, swimming lessons, learning basic CPR, and having compliant pool fencing can save lives.

Supervision means continually watching your children. Be familiar with your child's swimming ability and always keep within arm's reach when in or around the water.

A child or toddler can drown within 20 seconds, in as little as 50mm of water. **A child drowning is silent.**

For more information visit [qfcc.qld.gov.au](http://qfcc.qld.gov.au)

## ENCLOSE THE POOL WITH A FENCE

The Queensland Building Act 1975 defines a Regulated Pool as: - **231B What is a regulated pool**

- 1) A regulated pool—
  - a) is a swimming pool situated on regulated land; and
  - b) includes the barriers for the pool
- 2) The barriers for the pool include any of the following—
  - a) the fencing for the pool;
  - b) the walls of a building enclosing the pool;
  - c) another form of barrier mentioned or provided for in the pool safety standard.

If your private swimming pool/spa meet any of the following criteria, you are required by law to gain a building approval and to enclose it with a fence:

- capable of holding water to a depth greater than 300mm
- has the capacity to hold over 2,000 litres of water
- has a filtration

For more information about fencing requirements visit [lpswich.qld.gov.au/poolsafe](http://lpswich.qld.gov.au/poolsafe).

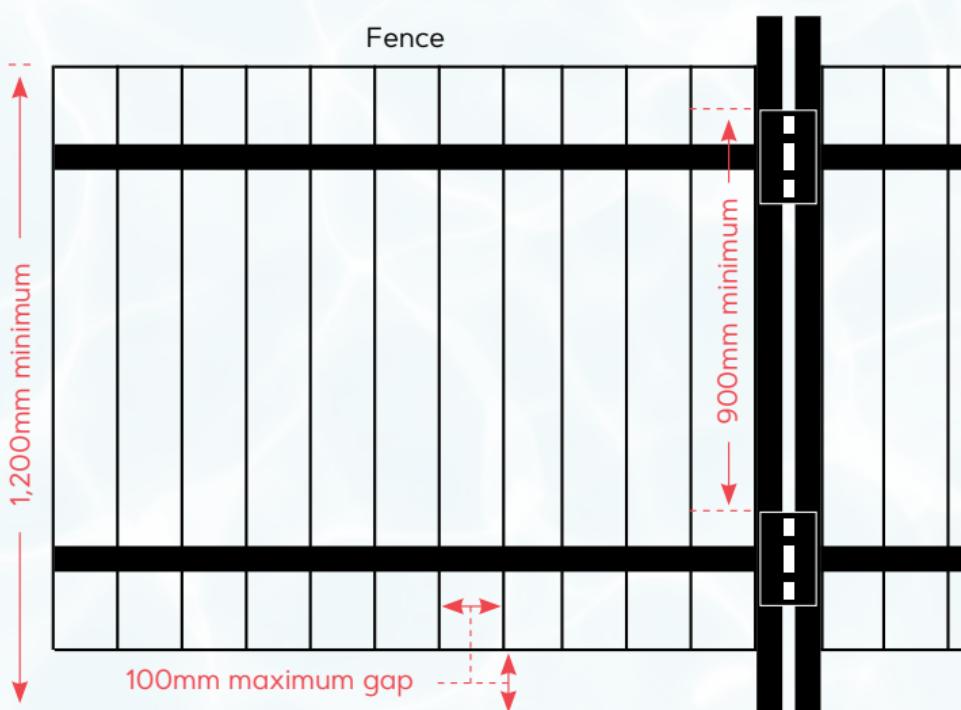
All regulated swimming pools and spas in Queensland **must be** registered with the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC)

[my.qbcc.qld.gov.au/s/pool-register](http://my.qbcc.qld.gov.au/s/pool-register).

## ACTIVELY CHECK POOL GATE AND FENCE

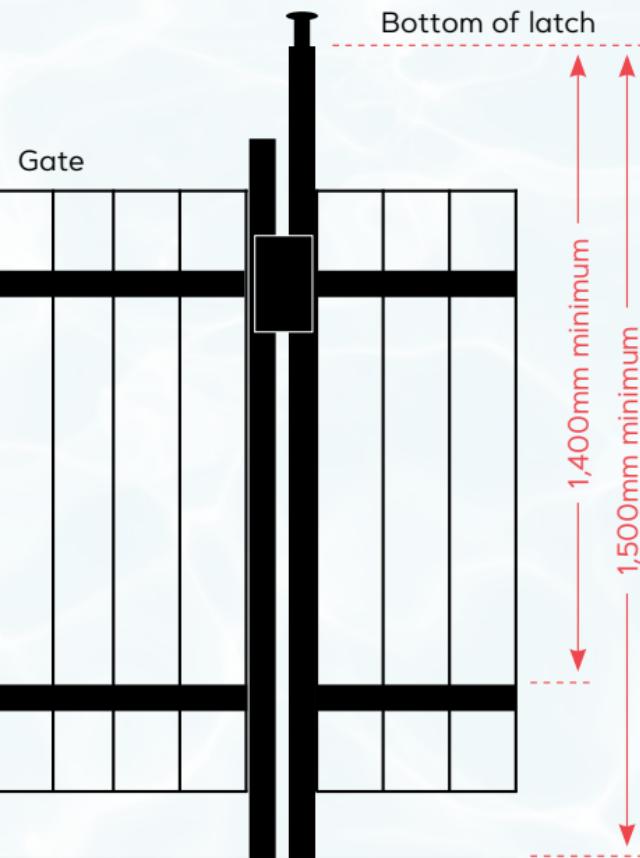
Things to check for to ensure your pool/spa is safe all year round

- Ensure the pool/spa fence has been installed as a permanent structure
- Ensure the effective pool/spa fence height is **not less than 1,200mm high from above the ground** and includes a continuous non-climbable zone around the entire pool/spa fence (*QDC MP3.4 Swimming Pool Barriers*)
- Ensure all objects inside the pool/spa fence that may provide footholds are moved a **minimum of 300mm** away from the fence
- Ensure there are **no climbable objects** such as furniture, trees, branches, shrubs, plants, pool toys or any other obstructions around the fence that a child can use to climb over the fence or open the gate to gain access to the pool/spa area
- Ensure the maximum distance under the pool/spa fence to the ground level does **not exceed 100mm**
- Ensure the maximum gap anywhere in the pool/spa fence does **not exceed 100mm**
- Ensure the gate latch is a **minimum of 1,500mm** when measured from the ground to the bottom of the latch
- Ensure the gate hinges are **900mm apart**, from the top of the top hinge to the top of the lower hinge



und:

- Direct access from a dwelling into a pool/spa enclosure is **not** allowable. Ensure that **all entry points** to a pool/spa is **only through an approved pool/spa gate**
- Ensure any building with windows and doors that open **more than 100mm** directly into a pool/spa enclosure has a permanently fixed security screen fitted, so children are not able to access the pool/spa area
- Is the pool/spa gate **closed at all times?**
- Does the gate **open outwards away** from the pool or spa area?
- Ensure the gate is **self-closing and self-latching from all open positions - replace immediately** if it no longer self-latches
- Ensure there is **no rust visible** on the gate or fence
- Ensure there is a **current CPR sign** displayed clearly to anyone near the pool/spa
- Actively supervising children **at all times** when **in or around** the pool/spa
- Is your pool/spa registered with the Queensland Building and Construction Commission? (QBCC) (see [qbcc.qld.gov.au](http://qbcc.qld.gov.au)).



*Diagram  
not to scale*

## LEARN CPR AND TO SWIM

Swimming is an important life skill which builds water confidence and is the first step when it comes to teaching your children water awareness.

A child that experiences an immersion and survives may suffer from long term medical issues.

The earlier your child is introduced to water, the more likely they will develop water safety and swimming skills which are vital lifesaving skills.

SEAL offers free water safety and swimming lessons to children aged 6 months – 5 years, to help build assurance and encourages them to be comfortable in the water. Lessons consist of (1) 30 minute session per week at the same time and day for four weeks.

Free water safety and swimming lessons are also available to adults aged 18+ years, in a five-day program. Lessons consist of a 1 hour session per day at the same time for five consecutive days.

It is a requirement that current CPR signage **must** be displayed clearly to anyone near your pool/spa. It should display the following and must:

- be attached to the barrier, or displayed near the pool/spa, and the sign is conspicuous and easily visible to anyone near the pool/spa
- be at least 300mm x 300mm in size
- be made of durable and weatherproof material
- each diagram or letter on the sign must be durable, legible, and clearly visible.

A child is **four** times more likely to survive a near drowning if parents/guardians or bystanders know CPR and it is performed immediately.

For up-to-date information about CPR signage requirements, visit [ipswich.qld.gov.au/poolsafe](http://ipswich.qld.gov.au/poolsafe).

SEAL offers free CPR awareness sessions for adults aged 18+ years and children aged 5-12 years to help teach them life-saving skills. Sessions run for 1 hour.

**For more information, please contact our friendly Pool Safety Team on (07) 3810 6120 or email [poolsprogram@ipswich.qld.gov.au](mailto:poolsprogram@ipswich.qld.gov.au)**

CPR Sign example:

## BASIC LIFE SUPPORT

D

Dangers?

R

Responsive?

S

Send for help

A

Open Airway

B

Normal breathing?

C

Start CPR  
30 compressions : 2 breaths

D

Attach **defibrillator (AED)**  
as soon as available, follow prompts

Continue CPR until responsiveness  
or normal breathing return

### 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.

Last updated July 2023