

# MAKE THIS WEEKEND YOUR HOME POOL SAFETY WEEKEND

# HOME POOL SAFETY CHECKLIST

## ELIMINATE CHILD DROWNING THIS SUMMER

40 children under the age of 5 have drowned over the last decade in WA. While all of these drowning deaths are preventable, it is the 50% that occur in home swimming pools where **your immediate action can make a difference**. Home pool fencing and effective supervision can reduce these tragic drowning deaths to zero.

Royal Life Saving WA is targeting every home pool owner with a basic reminder to check, fix and maintain their home pool and surrounding areas this summer in order to eliminate child drowning.

*Disclaimer: This checklist does not substitute for a pool inspection and is for educational purposes only. Pool owners should consider getting a professional assessment of their pool's compliance.*

### SUPERVISION

- Adult supervision in combination with a pool safety barrier is the most effective method of preventing your child from drowning
- Adults must be competent swimmers and know pool rules and emergency procedures

When using the pool are you always within arms' reach of any child under 5 years of age?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Always supervise children within arm's reach around water
Are you aware of the dangers of leaving older children to supervise younger children when they are using the pool?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - An adult should always be supervising children
During parties is an adult designated the role of supervising children around the pool?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - A designated adult should always be supervising children

### SWIMMING POOL GATE

- Must open outward from pool
- Latch must be more than 1.5m from the ground
- Must be self-closing and self-latching
- Must latch shut on the first swing

Does gate swing back to the closed position after being opened?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Replace hinges
Does gate latch and stay closed after it returns to the closed position?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Replace latch
Is gate secured so that it can't be pulled open once latched?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Fix or replace latch
Is gate secure and doesn't open if a child bounces on the bottom rail of the gate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Fix or replace latch
Is the gap between the gate and the pool safety barrier less than 100mm?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Reduce the gap
Are you aware of the dangers of propping the gate open?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Never prop gate open

### SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER

- Secure and in good working order
- No more than 100mm from the ground
- Should be at 1.2m high
- No vertical gaps more than 100mm apart

Are all of the fence panels in place?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Replace fence panels
Are all of the fence panels securely attached?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Secure panels
Have you checked the fence for gaps or holes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Check and fix fence
Is the distance between the bottom rail and the ground less than 100mm?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Reduce the gap
Have you checked for rusted, loose or missing screws?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Check and replace

## AROUND THE SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER

- Pool aids and toys should be stored securely and out of view
- Objects that could be used to climb the pool safety barrier should be removed from area

Are pool aids and toys removed from the pool and stored securely out of view after use?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Store toys securely
Have climbable objects near the pool safety barrier been removed? (i.e. chairs, ladders, trees, pot plants, BBQs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Store objects away from fence
Have trees or shrubs near the pool safety barrier been trimmed so that children can't use them to climb the fence?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Trim trees and shrubs

## EMERGENCY PREPARATION

- Ensure your skills are up-to-date. Enrol in a Heart Beat Club CPR and first aid course. Contact Royal Life Saving Society WA on (08) 9383 8200 or [info@rlsswa.com.au](mailto:info@rlsswa.com.au) to enrol
- Resuscitation sign displayed prominently in pool area

Do you and your family members have up-to-date resuscitation and first aid skills?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Enrol in a CPR and First Aid course
Does your house have a first aid kit handy?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Buy first aid kit
Is there a current resuscitation sign displayed prominently in the pool area?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Buy and install resuscitation sign

## PUMPS, GRATES AND SUCTION

- Ensure that no fitting is broken or missing

Are all of the pool's suction fittings and plumbing grates/covers securely in place and in good condition?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Secure loose fittings and replace broken or missing fittings
Do all pool users (including supervising adults) know where and how to switch off the pool/spa pump system in case of an emergency?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Show all people where to switch off the pump prior to using the pool
When using the pool do all people with long hair have it tied back securely in a bun or plait or are they wearing a swimming cap?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Long hair should be tied back or under a cap

## CHEMICALS

- Should be stored securely, out of view and out of children's reach

Are pool chemicals stored securely, out of view and out of reach of children?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Always store chemicals out of reach of children
Do you use protective equipment (gloves, goggles) when handling pool chemicals?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Purchase and use appropriate protective equipment
When using pool chemicals do you add the chemicals to water?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Always add chemicals to water NOT water into chemicals
Do you use clean or original chemical containers when mixing chemicals to avoid vapours from incompatible chemicals?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Always use clean or original chemical containers to mix chemicals
Do you read the Safety Directions and Directions for Use label on the pool chemicals before use?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Always read the instructions before using

## ELECTRICITY

- Electricity and water do not mix.
- A Residual Current Device (RCD) or Residual Current Circuit Breaker (RCCB) can save lives

Do you have a RCD or RCCB on power supply?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Have a RCD or RCCB installed
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If your pool or safety barrier requires maintenance, you can trust a member of the Swimming Pool and Spa Association WA. SPASA is the recognised authority on pools and spas, equipment and maintenance. Visit their website [www.spasawa.com.au](http://www.spasawa.com.au) for a complete list of member stores and suppliers.

Visit [www.lifesavingwa.com.au](http://www.lifesavingwa.com.au) to learn more about preventing childhood drowning.