

- Such materials must be fixed at the top and bottom, or be of such a nature, that the fence cannot be readily crossed by children under the age of six years.
- Any clearance between the bottom of the fence and gate and ground level shall not exceed 100mm.
- The spacing between adjacent vertical poles, panels or other posts shall not exceed 100mm at any point. All fencing supports, nails, rods, wires, bracing or other similar posts shall be on the inside of the fence and be inaccessible for use for climbing from the outside. Horizontal rails should be at least 900mm apart.
- Gates shall not open into the pool area, and must be fitted with an automatic closer capable of returning the gate to the closed position and operating a child proof latching device. The latching device should be mounted on the inside of the gate at a height of 1.2m above ground level or on the outside of the gate at a height of 1.5m above ground level.
- Where a building forms part of a fence and the pool is not contained within the building, any door that gives access to the immediate pool area will be required

to be fitted with a locking device that when properly operated, prevents the door from being readily opened by a child under the age of six years.

- This also applies to an opening window if any part of the sash is within 1.2m of the floor, and must be fitted with a window restrictor so that it cannot open more than 100mm or be lockable. The immediate pool area must not contain vegetable gardens, clotheslines, children's sand pits, slides, swings etc.
- The fence should also be situated to prevent children moving directly to the pool from the house.

This is only a guide to the fencing requirements and does not cover all situations or aspects of the fencing requirements.

Websites

- [Water Safety New Zealand](#)
- [Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.](#)
- [Building \(Pools\) Amendment Act 2016.](#)

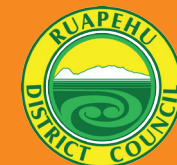
A Guide to

Fencing of Swimming Pools



Ruapehu District Council
Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui, 3946
59-63 Huia Street, Taumarunui 3920

Phone (24 Hours) 07 895 8188 Taumarunui
06 385 8364 Ohakune
06 385 4447 Raetihi
Fax 07 895 3256
Email info@ruapehudc.govt.nz
Website www.ruapehudc.govt.nz
Facebook [ruapehudc](https://www.facebook.com/ruapehudc)



New pool safety legislation came into effect on 1 January 2017

On 20 October 2016 Parliament passed the Building (Pools) Amendment Bill, repealing the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987 and including new pool safety provisions in the Building Act 2004.

Key changes include:

- A new requirement for mandatory three-yearly inspections of swimming pools
- Allowing safety covers to be used as barriers for spa pools and hot tubs not exceeding 5m² and not less than 760mm above adjacent floor or ground.
- Introducing additional enforcement tools for territorial authorities, including notices to fix.

These changes took effect from 1 January 2017.



More information can be found on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's website.

Swimming pools

A pool is any structure or product containing water over 400mm deep that is used or capable of being used for swimming, wading, paddling or bathing, and includes spa and inflatable pools.

All pools must be fenced following the guidelines required under the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act (1987).

A building consent from Council is required for the installation of pools and, sometimes, pool fencing. Contact Building Control to find out if you need a consent.

Swimming pool fencing guidelines

- All materials and components of a fence should be of a durable nature and constructed so as to prevent a child from climbing over or crawling under the fence from the outside.

- Fences shall extend a minimum of 1.2m above the ground around the pool and any pool projections.
- If a fence is to be constructed of perforated material, netting or mesh which has a dimension greater than 10mm, the fence shall extend 1.8m above ground level or pool projections. The maximum size opening of any perforated material, netting or mesh, excluding circumference or perimeter is 50mm.
- This will include diagonal measurements. Pool projections also mean objects permanently placed on the ground within 1.2m of the fence, and includes trees etc.

