



Most pool barriers don't fail inspection over one big problem. They fail over small things: a hinge that's gone slack, a pot plant pushed up against the fence, a latch that doesn't quite catch. Run through the checks below yourself, they take about ten minutes, then book a licensed inspection for anything you're unsure about or can't fix yourself.

This is a general self-check, not a compliance inspection. It doesn't replace a licensed assessment against your state's pool safety requirements. Only a licensed inspector can issue a compliance certificate for QLD, NSW or VIC.

Gate & Latch

8 checks

Opens outward, away from the pool Self-closes and self-latches from any position Release higher than 1500mm

Does the gate swing shut and latch by itself, every time, from any position? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: adjust or replace the hinges and closer.

Once closed, does the latch hold firm if you try to pull the gate open? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: repair or replace the latch.

Is the latch release higher than 1500mm from the ground? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: reposition the release above 1500mm.

Does the gate open outward, away from the water? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: reconfigure the gate to open away from the pool.

Is the gap under the gate less than 100mm? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: adjust the gate or add a threshold strip.

On a glass gate, is the gap to the latch 10mm or less? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: close the gap to 10mm or less.

Are the hinges at least 900mm apart, so there's no usable foothold? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: reposition hinges or fit anti-foothold caps.

Do you avoid ever propping or wedging the gate open? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: never prop the gate, even briefly.

Fence & Barrier

6 checks

At least 1200mm high Gap under fence less than 100mm No vertical gaps over 100mm

Is the fence at least 1200mm high, all the way around? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: raise or replace low sections to 1200mm.

Are all panels and rails firmly fixed, with nothing loose or missing? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: repair or replace damaged panels.

Is the gap under the fence less than 100mm? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: fill or lower the gap to under 100mm.

Are any vertical gaps in the fence 100mm or less? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: close gaps to 100mm or less.

If the fence has horizontal rails, are they positioned so they can't be climbed like a ladder? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: reposition or shield horizontal rails.

Are all fixings free of rust, with nothing loose or missing? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: replace corroded or missing fixings.

Around The Pool

4 checks

Non-climbable zone kept clear Toys stored away between uses

Is everything climbable, furniture, pot plants, BBQs, ladders, kept clear of the fence line? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: move climbable items away from the barrier.

Have trees or shrubs near the fence been trimmed back so they can't be used to climb over? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: trim back growth near the barrier.

Are there no steps, retaining walls or structures within 500mm of the fence that shorten its effective height? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: relocate the structure or extend the barrier.

Are pool toys and flotation aids stored out of sight after use?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: store toys away from the pool between uses.

Pump, Drains & Suction

3 checks

Are all drain covers and suction fittings intact, secure and undamaged?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: replace or resecure damaged covers immediately.

Does everyone using the pool know where the emergency pump shut-off is?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: show every household member the shut-off switch.

Is long hair always tied back or capped before swimming?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: tie back or cap long hair before entering the water.

Emergency Readiness

3 checks

Is your CPR and resuscitation knowledge current?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: book a refresher through Royal Life Saving Australia.

Is a resuscitation sign clearly displayed at the pool?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: install a compliant resuscitation sign poolside.

Is a stocked first aid kit within reach of the pool?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: keep a stocked first aid kit near the pool.

Chemical Safety

5 checks

Are pool chemicals locked away, out of children's reach and sight?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: store chemicals in a locked, child-proof cabinet.

Do you wear gloves and eye protection when handling chemicals?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: use gloves and eye protection every time.

Do you always add chemical to water, never water to chemical?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: always add chemical to water, not the reverse.

Are chemicals kept in their original, labelled containers?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: store chemicals only in original containers.

Do you read the label's safety directions before every use?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: read the label before handling any chemical.

Electrical Safety

1 check

Is the pool's power supply protected by a residual current device (RCD)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: have a licensed electrician install an RCD.

Supervision

3 checks

Is a child under 5 always kept within arm's reach in the water?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: stay within arm's reach of children under 5 at all times.

Do you avoid leaving older kids in charge of watching younger ones?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: keep an adult, not another child, on supervision duty.

At gatherings, is one adult clearly assigned to watch the pool?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: assign one adult as pool supervisor at every gathering.

Ticked a "No"? Let's fix it properly.

Book a licensed pool safety inspection across QLD, NSW or VIC.

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