

Other important things to bear in mind about your pool barrier

- All gate and door latches used for the pool barrier should not be able to be released by the insertion of any instrument.
- Ensure no other locks or security mechanisms can be deployed in a manner that prevents the pool-latching device from operating freely at all times.
- Double gates and doors are not easily made self-closing and self-latching – one leaf will almost certainly need to be permanently secured in place to allow the other leaf to be self-closing and latching (key lock is not enough).
- Gates intended for vehicle access may breach the performance requirement of the standard, if the gate is held open by a fitted device. If this occurs, it is no longer self-closing in that position and will not comply.
- Gates or roller doors with electrical self-closing devices do not comply unless failsafe or backup devices are provided to ensure the performance of the gate in the event of a power failure. Even with these backup devices, the gate will not comply if it includes a hold-open mechanism.
- Manually-operated garage or car park doors, including roller doors, sliding doors or tilt-a-door types, do constitute an acceptable pool barrier.

Security-style keyed window locks are not acceptable on their own as a means to make windows in pool barriers comply.

The use of lockable covers on spas or other alternative devices does not remove the requirement to install and maintain a barrier.

This information brochure outlines some of the requirements of the Australian Standard AS1926.1-1993 and AS1926.1-2012 and the main issues of non-compliance identified by the City's inspectors. A full list of pool safety requirements can be obtained from the Department of Commerce's Building Commission website at:
www.commerce.wa.gov.au/building-commission/swimming-and-spa-pools.

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Swimming Pool Barrier Safety



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It's time again for your swimming pool barrier to be inspected for safety and compliance with Australian Standard AS1926.1-1993 and/or AS1926-2012. Pool safety is a high priority for the City of Nedlands and we seek your assistance to make sure your pool barrier is in full working order.

We encourage you to now check over your pool barrier to ensure everything is working correctly and has been installed to comply with the Australian Standard. This brochure has been designed to highlight the most common faults found by City inspectors that will assist you in checking over your pool fence and barrier. If you find any maintenance is required, it should be completed before the barrier inspection takes place.

The three most common reasons pool barriers fail inspections are:

- 1. The pool gate and/or house door does not self-close from all open positions, including resting on the latch.**

All gates and allowable doors must be fitted with a device that will return the gate or door to the closed position without the use of manual force. The self-closing function must operate from any position the gate or door is capable of opening from, including when resting on a latch.

The self-closing function should not allow the gate to inadvertently bounce back open.

- 2. Climbable objects existing within 1.2m of the pool fence**

Your fence/barrier will be assessed upon the effective height of 1,200mm – not the overall height. This means if there is a climbable object, such as a pot plant, near the fence then the effective height of the fence will be reduced by the height of the climbable object.

A climbable object is anything with a horizontal surface greater than 10mm in depth, which is considered a toe-hold. Commonly encountered climbable objects are barbecues, taps, window sills, planter boxes, trees and shrubs, water features, pool pumps, retaining walls and garden furniture.

- 3. Windows forming part of the barrier are not adequately screened or restricted to a 100mm maximum opening.**

If your sill height is less than 1,200mm when measured from the inside of the building, the window must have one of the following modifications:

- They must be covered by bars or security-type mesh screens (fly screens are not usually strong enough) fixed into position with fasteners that require hand tools to remove them (such as an Allen key, spanner or screwdriver). Key-locking devices are not acceptable.

OR

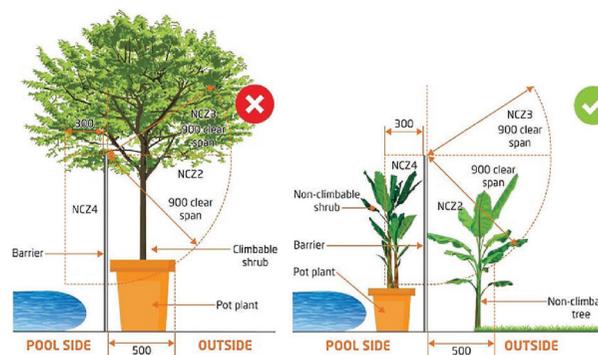
- They must be fixed in such a way that the window is not capable of opening more than 100mm. This 100mm clearance applies to windows that open in either a horizontal or vertical plane. Key-locking devices are not acceptable and the stopping device must be permanently fixed.

Note: where plans for a pool were submitted post-May 2016, the Australian Standard AS 1926.1-2012 has to be applied. The most notable change is regarding the use of a boundary barrier as part of the pool barrier. A post-2016 pool must have a drop (from the top of the fence) of at least 1.8m into the pool area. There can be nothing climbable on the barrier that could aid a child in lowering themselves into the pool area. Please see the diagram below.

Climbable Objects

Dimensions in millimetres

NCZ:
Non-climbable zone



Post-May 2016 Pools

Non-climbable Zone

