

# VICTORIAN POOL BARRIER INFORMATION

## **New Pool and Spa registration and inspection requirements:**

On 1 December 2019, new laws to improve swimming pool and spa safety came into effect in Victoria. They introduce new registration, inspection and certification requirements for property owners.

As a pool or spa owner you will need to complete the following:

1. Register your pool with your local council by 1 November 2020.
2. Organise an inspection of your pool barrier by a registered swimming pool inspector.
3. Rectify any issues identified by your local pool inspection.
4. Submit a certificate of compliance to your council by the due date.

## **Barrier Requirements:**

All swimming pools and spas capable of containing water to a depth greater than 300 mm (30 cm) must have a compliant safety barrier to restrict access to the pool area by young children (under the age of five). Barriers are required for:

- In-ground pools and spas.
- Above-ground pools and spas, including relocatable and inflatable pools that are capable of holding more than 300 mm (30 cm) depth of water and require assembly on site.
- Indoor pools and spas.
- Bathing and wading pools capable of containing more than 300 mm (30 cm) depth of water.

## **Barrier aren't required for:**

- Inflatable swimming pools (typically toddler or wading pools) that cannot contain a water depth greater than 300 mm (30 cm).
- Small inflatable pools that do not consist of multiple components and do not require any assembly. An example of such a product is a small inflatable pool that requires no assembly other than inflation.
- Bird baths.
- Fountains.
- Water supply/storage tanks.
- Fish ponds.
- Dams.
- Baths used for personal hygiene and emptied after each use.
- Spas inside a building (e.g. in a bathroom) used for personal hygiene and emptied after each use.
- Pools or spas that cannot contain a water depth of more than 300 mm.

### **If you already have a pool or spa:**

As a pool or spa owner, you have an obligation to maintain the operation of your swimming pool or spa barrier to prevent access to the pool or spa.

The following checklists will help you assess the safety of your barrier. The checklists are based on the relevant barrier standard associated with the date that the pool or spa was installed.

If you are having any work done on an existing safety barrier, a permit may need to be issued to alter the barrier. Work to alter an existing barrier will need to comply with the current Regulations. Check with your local council or building surveyor for advice.

### **If you are planning to get a pool or spa:**

In Victoria, the design, construction and installation of swimming pools, spas and safety barriers are subject to strict requirements under the Regulations.

Swimming pools, spas and safety barriers must comply with several requirements, including:

- Being constructed by a domestic builder registered in the appropriate category or class, or an owner-builder who have an owner-builder certificate of consent.
- Have self-latching and self-closing pool gates.
- Safety barriers must comply with AS1926.1-2012.

Property owners and occupants are responsible for making sure pool barriers are maintained, repaired and kept in working order. A new outdoor pool or spa must not have direct access from any building.

### **Building code of Australia – P2.7.1 Swimming Pool Access:**

A barrier must constructed around a swimming pool and must:

- Extend continuously for the full length of the pool.
- Be strong and rigid enough to withstand impacts from people.
- Restrict young children accessing the pool and immediate surrounds.
- Have gates and doors with latching devices which young children can't operate and which close and latch automatically.