

# KEEP WATCH

PREVENT YOUR CHILD FROM DROWNING

EVERYONE CAN BE A LIFESAVER

 **Royal Life Saving**  
ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY - AUSTRALIA



Make this weekend your...

## HOME POOL SAFETY WEEKEND

CHECK IT. FIX IT. WATCH IT.

Visit our website to get your home pool safety checklist

[www.homepoolsafety.com.au](http://www.homepoolsafety.com.au)

# HOME POOL SAFETY CHECKLIST

## ELIMINATE CHILD DROWNING THIS SUMMER

Over the last five years over 150 Australian children under the age of five drowned. 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 is targeting every home pool owner with a basic reminder to check, fix and maintain their home pool and surrounds 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.*

### 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 secure 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
Are you aware of the dangers of propping the gate open?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Never prop gate open
Is the gap between the gate and the fence less than 100mm?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Reduce the gap

### SWIMMING POOL FENCE

- Secure and in good working order
- No more than 100mm from the ground
- Should be at least 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 FENCE

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

Have climbable objects near the pool fence been removed? i.e. chairs, ladders, trees, pot plants, BBQ's.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Store objects away from fence
Are toys always removed from the pool and stored securely after use?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Store toys securely
Have trees or shrubs near the fence 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

## SUPERVISION

- **Adult supervision in combination with pool fencing is the most effective method of preventing your child from drowning**

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 your child 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 'child supervisor' duties around the pool?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - An adult should always be supervising children

## PUMP, 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

## EMERGENCY PREPARATION

- **Up to date CPR and First Aid Skills - Call Royal Life Saving today to book a course on 1300 737 763**
- **Resuscitation Sign prominent in pool area**

Do you or your family members have up to date Resuscitation and First Aid skills?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Enrol in a CPR or 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

## 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
Do you, when using pool chemicals, add the chemical 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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Visit [www.homepoolsafety.com.au](http://www.homepoolsafety.com.au)  
and learn how to prevent children  
from drowning.



[www.royallifesaving.com.au](http://www.royallifesaving.com.au)

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