

# MAKE THIS WEEKEND YOUR HOME POOL SAFETY WEEKEND

# HOME POOL SAFETY CHECKLIST

## ELIMINATE CHILD DROWNING THIS SUMMER

40 children under the age of 5 have drowned over the last decade in WA. 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 WA is targeting every home pool owner with a basic reminder to check, fix and maintain their home pool and surrounding areas 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.*

### SUPERVISION

- Adult supervision in combination with a pool safety barrier is the most effective method of preventing your child from drowning
- Adults must be competent swimmers and know pool rules and emergency procedures

|  |                              |   |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| 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 children within arm's reach 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 the role of supervising children around the pool?                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No - A designated adult should always be supervising children  |

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

### SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER

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

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

|  |                              |   |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Are pool aids and toys removed from the pool and stored securely out of view after use?                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No - Store toys securely           |
| Have climbable objects near the pool safety barrier been removed? (i.e. chairs, ladders, trees, pot plants, BBQs)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No - Store objects away from fence |
| Have trees or shrubs near the pool safety barrier 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         |

## EMERGENCY PREPARATION

- Ensure your skills are up-to-date. Enrol in a Heart Beat Club CPR and first aid course. Contact Royal Life Saving Society WA on (08) 9383 8200 or [info@rlsswa.com.au](mailto:info@rlsswa.com.au) to enrol
- Resuscitation sign displayed prominently in pool area

|  |                              |   |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Do you and your family members have up-to-date resuscitation and first aid skills? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No - Enrol in a CPR and 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  |

## PUMPS, 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                         |

## 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                 |
| When using pool chemicals do you add the chemicals 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 |
|--|------------------------------|--|

If your pool or safety barrier requires maintenance, you can trust a member of the Swimming Pool and Spa Association WA. SPASA is the recognised authority on pools and spas, equipment and maintenance. Visit their website [www.spasawa.com.au](http://www.spasawa.com.au) for a complete list of member stores and suppliers.

Visit [www.lifesavingwa.com.au](http://www.lifesavingwa.com.au) to learn more about preventing childhood drowning.