



Most barriers don't fail inspection over one big problem. They fail over small things: a hinge that's gone slack, a pot plant against the fence, a latch that doesn't quite catch. Work through the checks below, then book a registered inspection for anything you can't fix or aren't sure about.

This is a self-check, not a compliance inspection. It doesn't replace an assessment by a registered building surveyor, building inspector or pool safety inspector under the *Building Act 1993* and the *Building Regulations 2018*. Only a registered inspector can issue a Form 23 Certificate of Pool and Spa Barrier Compliance.

Step 1: work out which barrier standard applies to your pool

Installed before 8 Apr 1991	Part 9A Building Regulations 2018 and AS 1926.1-1993. Self-Assessment Checklist 1
Barrier approved 8 Apr 1991 – 31 Oct 1994	AS 1926.1-1986. Self-Assessment Checklist 2
Barrier approved 1 Nov 1994 – 30 Apr 2010	AS 1926.1-1993. Self-Assessment Checklist 2
Barrier permit 1 May 2010 – 30 Apr 2013	AS 1926.1-2007. Self-Assessment Checklist 3
Barrier permit from 1 May 2013, or barrier not requiring a permit from 1 Dec 2019	AS 1926.1-2012. Self-Assessment Checklist 3
From 1 May 2010	No outdoor pool or spa may have direct access from a building, such as a house or garage door, into the pool area

The checks below follow Checklist 3, which covers barriers installed from 1 May 2010 and is the strictest of the three. Items marked **(2013+)** apply only where the barrier permit was issued from 1 May 2013. If your barrier is older, several of the measurements change: see the table directly below. Note that the Victorian Building Authority now operates as the Building and Plumbing Commission (BPC).

If your barrier predates 1 May 2010, these numbers are different

Clear space outside the barrier	1200 mm quarter circle from the top of the fence on Checklists 1 and 2, not the 900 mm non-climbable zone used from 2010
Windows in a barrier wall	Checklist 1: max opening 125 mm , stop at 1500 mm above floor, or sill 2400 mm above ground, or a fixed flyscreen. Checklist 2 adds a 105 mm object test
Perforated or mesh over 13 mm	Must be 2400 mm high, or 1800 mm with a 450 mm cranked top, plus strainer wires or rails top and bottom
Retaining walls	High side 2400 mm effective height on Checklist 2, against 1800 mm from 2010
Above-ground pool wall as barrier	1200 mm clear zone, against 900 mm from 2010
Projections and indentations over 10 mm	Spaced 900 mm apart and at least 1100 mm below the top of the barrier, or sloping away by 60 degrees

Checklist 1 also allows barrier types that later standards do not, including a wall of a building or a paling fence without openings at least 1500 mm high on the approach side. If any of that describes your setup, get it assessed rather than self-testing against the modern numbers.

Registration & Certificates

5 checks

Council registration is mandatory Re-inspect every 4 years Lodge within 30 days

- | | |
|---|--|
| Is your pool or spa registered with your local council?
<i>If no: register it now. Registration has been mandatory since 2019 and applies to any pool or spa holding more than 300 mm of water.</i> | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| Do you know your Form 23 lodgement due date, given to you in council's registration acknowledgement?
<i>If no: call council and ask. The date is theirs, not yours, and missing it attracts penalties.</i> | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| Has the barrier been inspected within the last 4 years by a registered inspector?
<i>If no: book an inspection. Compliance runs on a four-year cycle from the last lodged certificate.</i> | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| Was your last Form 23 lodged with council within 30 days of the inspector issuing it?
<i>If no: lodge it now. A passed inspection sitting in a drawer is still non-compliance.</i> | ☐ Yes ☐ No |

Do you know your pool's installation date and barrier permit date?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: check your council records first, so you self-assess against the right checklist.

Barrier

10 checks

1200 mm minimum height 900 mm NCZ outside 300 mm NCZ inside 1800 mm boundary fences

Is the barrier at least 1200 mm high all the way around?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: raise or replace any section under 1200 mm.

Are openings between the bottom of the barrier and the finished, compacted ground 100 mm or less?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: pave, fill or lower the gap to 100 mm or less.

Is there a 900 mm non-climbable zone measured from the top of the barrier around the outside, clear of climbable objects?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: clear the zone. Furniture, pot plants, BBQs, bins and toys in the NCZ are the most common cause of failure.

Is there a 300 mm non-climbable zone on the inside of the barrier, clear of climbable objects?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: move anything with a horizontal surface at least 300 mm back from the inside of the barrier.

Are projections or indentations in the NCZ 10 mm deep or less, or spaced at least 900 mm apart and at least 900 mm from the top of the barrier and the ground?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: remove, shield or re-space the footholds.

Are boundary fences at least 1800 mm high, with a 900 mm non-climbable zone at the top on the inside? (2013+)

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: raise the boundary fence to 1800 mm and clear the NCZ on your side.

Are adjacent vertical elements such as palings, rods or wires no more than 100 mm apart?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: close the gaps to 100 mm or less.

On barriers under 1800 mm, are climbable horizontal rails, rods, wires or bracing at least 900 mm apart?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: reposition or shield the horizontal elements.

If the barrier uses perforated material or mesh with holes over 13 mm but not over 100 mm, is it at least 1800 mm high with strainer wires or rails at the top and bottom?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: replace with mesh of 13 mm or less, or raise the barrier and fit top and bottom rails.

Does the barrier resist an average adult pushing firmly at its weakest points, halfway between posts and at the top?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: repair or replace any section without enough strength and rigidity.

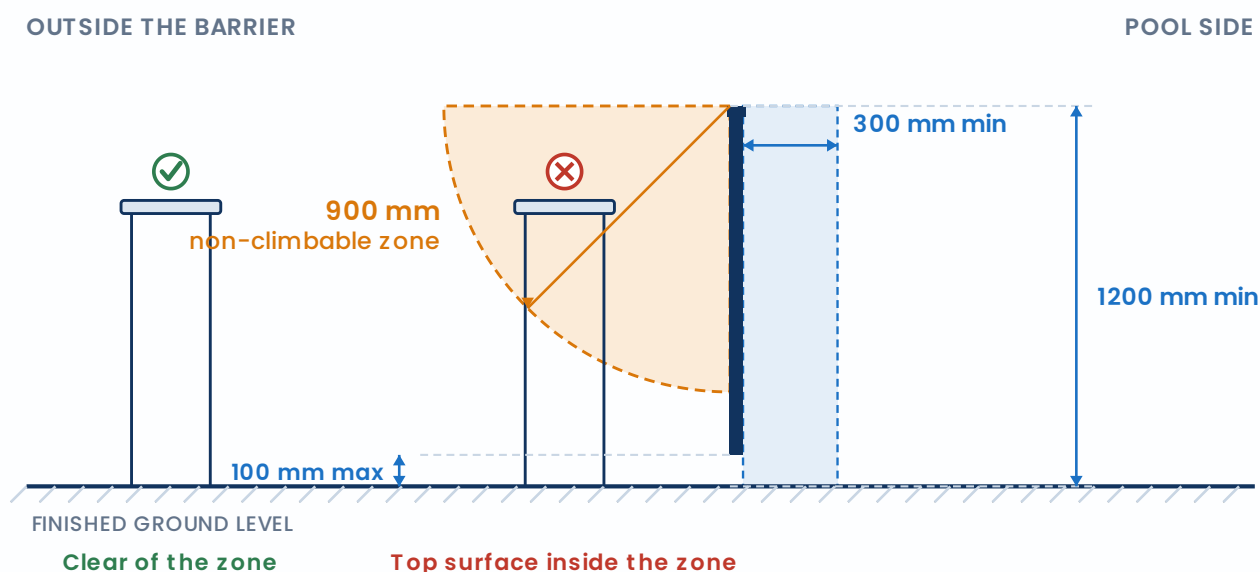


Figure. The 900 mm non-climbable zone outside the barrier, and the 300 mm clear space inside it. Furniture, pot plants, BBQs and bins in either zone are the most common cause of failure.

Gates & Fittings

7 checks

Self-closing from any position Latch release 1500 mm or shielded 10 mm hinge rule (2013+)

Does the gate swing outwards, away from the pool area? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: rehang the gate so it opens away from the water.

Does it self-close and engage the latch from any open position, from a stationary start, with no manual force? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: adjust or replace the closer and the hinges.

Does it self-latch automatically on closing, so it can't be reopened without a manual release? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: repair or replace the latching device.

Is the latching device impossible to inadvertently adjust, lock in the open position, or adjust without tools? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: replace it with a compliant latch.

Is the latch release at least 1500 mm above finished ground, or shielded for a 450 mm radius with no opening in the shield greater than 10 mm? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: raise the release or fit a compliant shield.

Do gate hinges protrude no more than 10 mm, and is the gap between gate post and gate stile no more than 10 mm? (2013+) ☐ Yes ☐ No

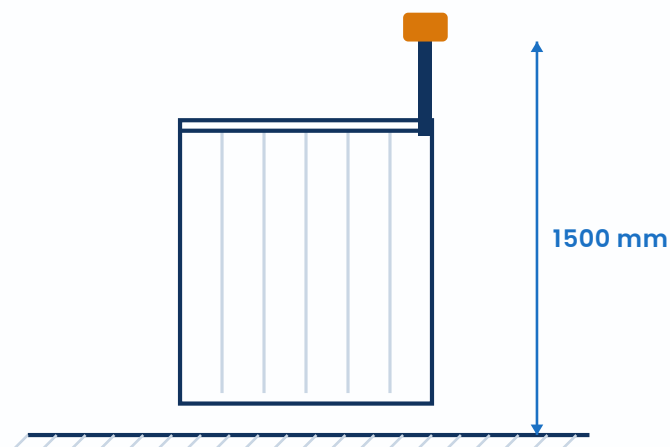
If no: replace or adjust the hinges and close the gap to 10 mm.

Is the gate never propped, wedged or tied open? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: stop propping it, even briefly.

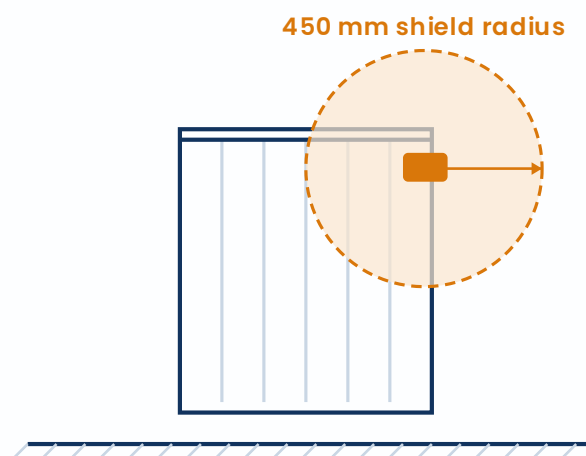
Option A: release height

At least 1500 mm above finished ground level



Option B: shielded release

450 mm shield, no opening in it over 10 mm



From 1 May 2013: hinges protrude 10 mm or less, and the gap between post and stile is 10 mm or less.

Figure. Either the release height or a compliant shield will satisfy the standard.

Windows & Doors

5 checks

Windows 1800 mm above the pool area, or restrained No direct access door since 2010

Are all openable parts of windows in a barrier wall at least 1800 mm above the pool area? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: restrain or screen the window instead, per the next check.

If not, is the window restricted to a 100 mm opening, or covered by bars or a metal screen with openings no greater than 100 mm, fixed so it can only be removed with a tool? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: fit a compliant restrictor, bars or screen.

For an outdoor pool installed from 1 May 2010: is there no door from the house, garage or any building giving direct access to the pool area? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: install a compliant barrier between the building and the pool area. A child-resistant door is not accepted for outdoor pools.

Indoor pools only: does the door self-latch on closing, with the release inside the building at least 1500 mm above the floor?

☐ Yes ☐ No

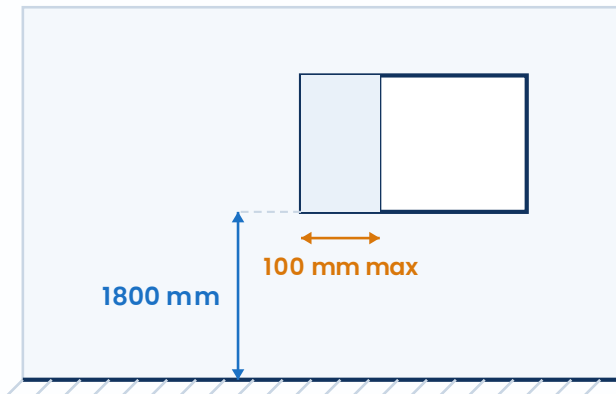
If no: install or adjust a compliant self-closing and self-latching doorset.

Indoor pools only: are footholds near the door release less than 10 mm deep or less than 100 mm above the floor?

☐ Yes ☐ No

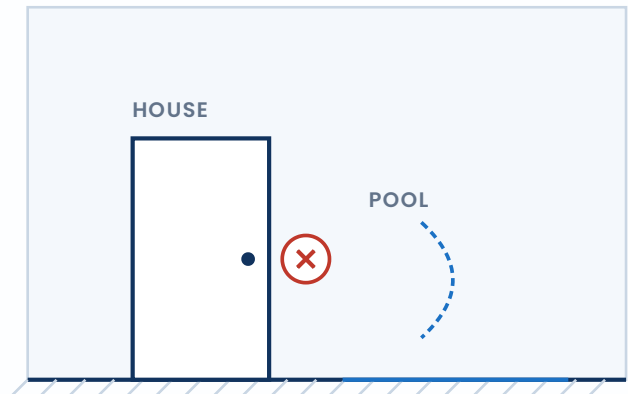
If no: remove or adjust the footholds near the release.

Windows opening into the pool area



Sill 1800 mm up, or the opening restrained to 100 mm with a fastener that only comes off with a tool.

No direct access since 1 May 2010



Outdoor pools installed from 1 May 2010 cannot have a door from a house or garage into the pool area.

Figure. Window restraints, and the direct-access door rule that applies from 1 May 2010.

Retaining Walls, Levels & Above-Ground Pools

5 checks

15 degree slope limit 500 mm from changes of level (2013+)

If a retaining wall forms part of the barrier above the pool, does it have an effective height of at least 1800 mm, or 1200 mm with a climb-resistant surface (2013+), and slope no more than 15 degrees to the vertical?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: rebuild or extend the wall to meet the height and slope requirements.

If a retaining wall forms part of the barrier below the pool, is it at least 1800 mm, or 1200 mm with a climb-resistant surface and a 900 mm NCZ, sloping towards the pool by no more than 15 degrees?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: rebuild or extend the wall to meet the requirements.

Are steps, retaining walls or objects that reduce the effective height of the barrier more than 500 mm away from it? (2013+)

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: relocate the structure or extend the barrier.

Where intersecting internal barriers have a top rail wider than 50 mm, are they at least 1800 mm high for at least 900 mm from the intersection? (2013+)

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: extend the height of the intersecting barrier.

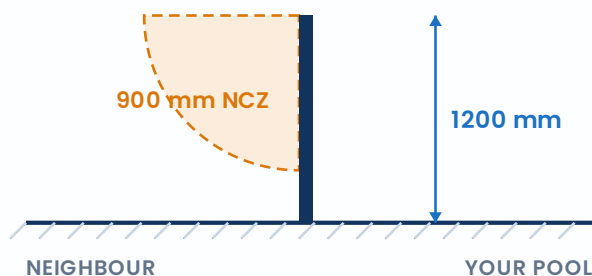
Where an above-ground pool wall is used as the barrier, is it at least 1200 mm above ground with a 900 mm clear zone, and are ladders, pumps and filters kept out of that zone?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: move the climbable items, or fence the pool and its entry point to 1200 mm.

Not acceptable as a boundary barrier ❌

A 1200 mm dividing fence will not pass



Barrier permits from 1 May 2013 ✅

900 mm NCZ at the top, on the inside

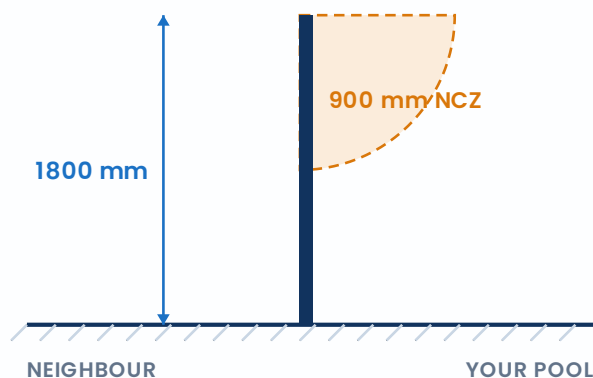


Figure. Boundary and dividing fences. A standard 1200 mm paling fence will not serve as a pool barrier.

Glass & Signage

3 checks

AS 1288 for glass CPR sign strongly recommended

Is any glass used in the barrier compliant with AS 1288 and free of chips, cracks or damage? (2013+)

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: replace non-compliant or damaged glass panels.

On glass gates, do the top and bottom pivot hinges avoid creating a foothold or handhold? (2013+)

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: fit anti-foothold caps or replace the hinges.

Is a current CPR and resuscitation sign displayed within the pool area, legible and undamaged?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no: install one. Signage does not appear in any of the three official Victorian self-assessment checklists and is not part of the barrier standard, so this one is our recommendation rather than a legal requirement. It is still the difference between a bystander acting and freezing.

Beyond The Barrier

3 checks

Not assessed at inspection, but it's what saves a child

Is a child under 5 always within arm's reach in the water, supervised by an adult and not an older sibling?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is your CPR knowledge current, and does everyone in the household know where the pump shut-off is?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Are toys and flotation aids stored away from the pool between uses, so they don't draw a child to the fence?

☐ Yes ☐ No

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

Book a Victorian pool and spa barrier inspection and Form 23 certificate.
Registered inspectors across Melbourne and regional Victoria.

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certifiedpoolcompliance.com.au · Licensed QLD · NSW · VIC

Sources: Victorian Building Act 1993; Building Regulations 2018; VBA / BPC Pool and Spa Safety Barrier Self-Assessment Checklists 1-3; AS1926.1-2007 and AS1926.1-2012; bpc.vic.gov.au. Current as at August 2026. Rules change; confirm current requirements with your regulator or a licensed inspector.