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Protection for Young Children

In 1992, the State Government established compulsory standards for pool security and required that Local Authorities inspect all new swimming pools/spas and at least every 4 years thereafter.

These earlier standards have been progressively upgraded such that all new pools approved and installed on or after 5 November 2001 are now required to be isolated from the dwelling by a compliant barrier.

Drowning is the biggest cause of accidental death amongst children under 5 years of age, and causes 3 out of 4 deaths in Australia in this age group. These occur primarily in private swimming pools.

The City of Wanneroo supports the Government's initiatives in attempting to reduce the number of children drowning.

Pool Barriers – General Information

- All pools or spas which contain more than 300mm of water must be fully surrounded by complying barriers and fences.
- A wall of the house may be used as part of the barrier provided that it does not have any doors.
- If a window is within 1.8m from sill to floor level, the openable portion of the window shall be totally covered by bars (no more than 100mm apart), a metal screen or to be permanently fixed to prevent the window opening more than 100mm (key locks are not acceptable). The test for strength, fixing, rigidity will apply as per AS 1926.1-2012

Fences and Gates

Fences and gates must comply with the following:

- Minimum height of 1.2m to the ground consisting of 5 Non-Climbable Zones (NCZ) as defined in AS1926.1:2012.
- NCZ 1 - Minimum distance between horizontal members capable of providing a foot or toe hold to be 900mm .
- NCZ 2/3 - The top of the fence must be 900mm clear of any obstruction above and below the fence , eg. rocks, BBQ's, walls, trees etc which could provide a foothold for a child.
- NCZ 4 - 900mm high by 300mm deep rectangular space on the inside of the barrier and shall align with NCZ 1.
- NCZ 5 - Boundary Fence Barriers to be no less than 1800mm (measured internally) and must have a quadrant of 900mm radius down from the top to the inside of the barrier. There may be additional requirements for intersecting barriers.
- Maximum spacing between vertical member 100mm.
- Maximum gap under fence or gate 100mm.
- Glass barriers must comply with AS1288.
- Gates must open away from the pool.
- Gates must self-close and latch from any position.
- Gate latch release must be not less than 1.5m above the ground (other options available).
- Retaining walls and permanent bodies of water i.e. lake, rivers may from part of the barrier refer to AS1926.1-2012 for further information.
- A balcony or deck area that protrudes into a NCZ shall be fitted with a pool safety barrier balustrade.

Do I need approval?

A building permit is required prior to the construction or installation of any swimming pool / spa that will contain more than 300mm (30cm) depth of water.

All swimming pool and spa safety barriers must be inspected by the City's Swimming Pool Inspector prior to filling with water. An inspection can be arranged by calling 9405 5000. Failure to do so is an offence and can result in an infringement and prosecution.

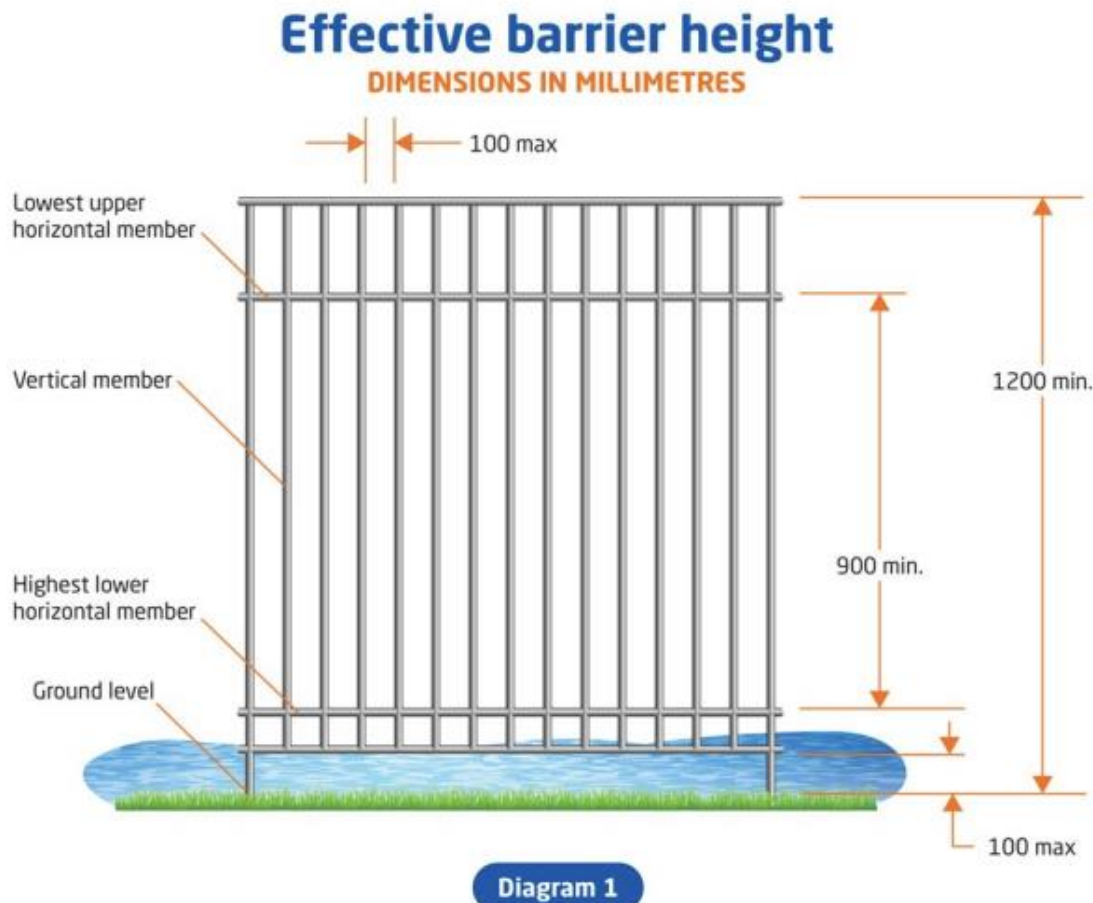
Further Information:

The City is required to comply installed swimming pool barriers on completion and then to re-inspect at least once every four (4) years.

For further information, please contact the City's Compliance Services on 9405 5000.

Diagrams

Courtesy of [Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety](#).



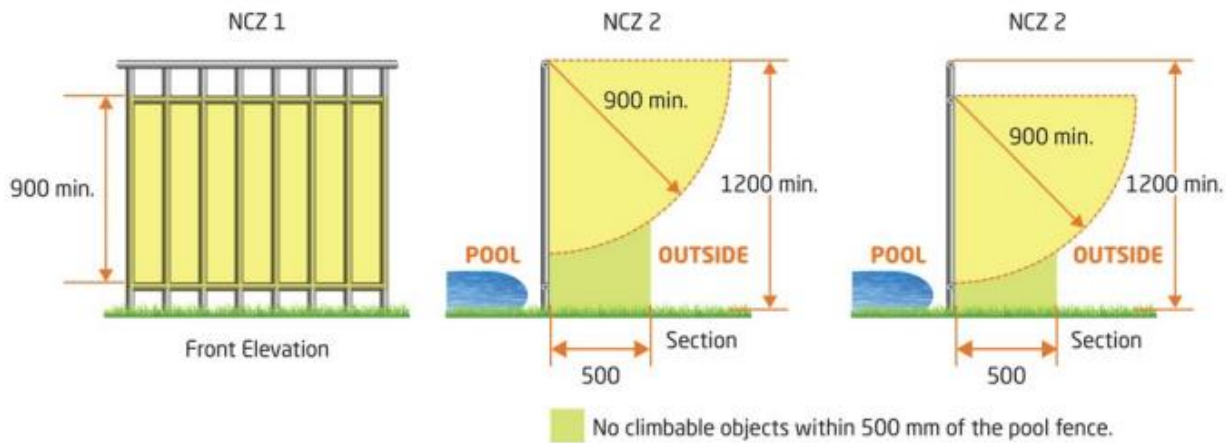


Diagram 2

Diagram 3

Diagram 4

Features and objects near a barrier

In all instances, regardless of the NCZs, there must be no objects, steps, retaining walls or ground level changes within 500 mm of the barrier that would reduce the minimum height of the barrier as required on that side (See Diagrams 3 and 4 above).

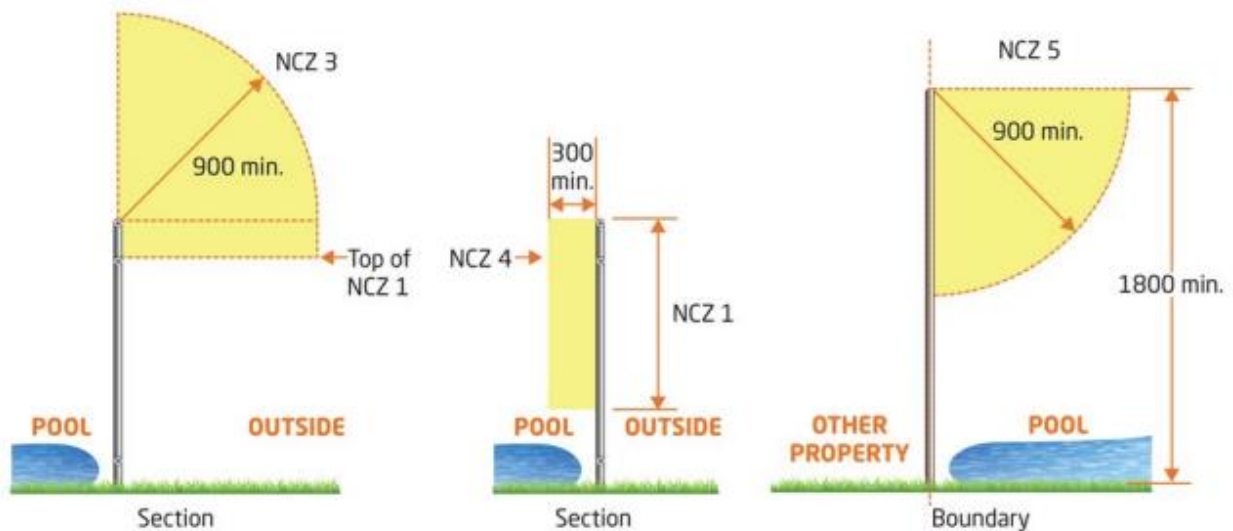


Diagram 5

Diagram 6

Diagram 7

Disclaimers:

1. This information sheet is produced by The City of Wanneroo in good faith and the City accepts no responsibility for any ramifications or repercussions for providing this information. This information sheet is correct as of July 2024 and prone to alteration without notification.