

Swimming Pool Safety



Despite significant reductions in toddler drowning deaths over time, drowning continues to be one of the leading causes of accidental death for Australian children under 5 years of age. Backyard swimming pools are one of the most common location where these incidents occur.

While pool and spa barriers can be effective in reducing the risk of drowning incidents, evidence suggests that a large number of drowning deaths involve barriers that are faulty, or non-compliant with Australian standards.

The law

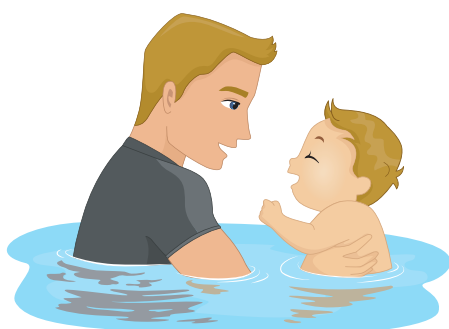
All swimming pools and spas capable of containing water to a depth greater than 300 mm (30 cm) must have a compliant safety barrier to restrict access to the pool area by young children.

In late 2019, new legislation to improve swimming pool and spa safety came into effect – introducing new inspection, maintenance and compliance requirements for property owners. For further information on swimming pool and spa registration or compliance, please visit the [Glen Eira City Council website](http://www.glenaira.nsw.gov.au).

Keeping children safe around water

- Regularly check pool and spa barriers to make sure they are in proper working order – this includes checking for common non-compliance issues including gates or doors that no longer self-close or self-latch, gates that are propped open, and climbable objects near the pool barrier such as BBQs and trees, which could provide children with unsupervised access to the water area

- Actively supervise children when around any body of water – for toddlers, this means always having an adult within arm's reach. Toddlers can drown in as little as a few centimetres of water. This means that objects including buckets, inflatable/toddler wading pools, backyard ponds, eskies with melted ice and even pet drinking bowls can pose a potential drowning hazard
- Enrol children in water awareness and learn to swim classes – these classes can assist in helping children to become familiar with water, teaching them about water safety and learning how to swim. To find out more about our Glen Eira Leisure Swim School please visit www.geleisure.com.au
- Undertake a CPR/First Aid course and update skills regularly – undertaking a course will assist in ensuring you are equipped to respond if an emergency does arise



Supervise children at all times when in or around water

