

Make sure you follow the ABC of pool safety



For every young child that drowns in a pool, approximately five are hospitalised due to immersion injuries. Some of these children will suffer permanent brain damage.

You can protect children by following the ABC of pool safety:



Always supervise children near a pool

Effective pool safety depends on the vigilance of parents and carers supervising young children around pools at all times.



Begin swimming lessons for your children

Many parents start swimming lessons out of concern for their child's water safety. Swimming lessons are never a substitute for supervision, but learning how to swim does reduce the possibility of drowning.



Close the pool gate and always maintain your fence

It is important to make sure that your pool gate always self-closes and self-latches and that you check your pool fence to ensure it complies. For more information on pool fencing laws, visit www.hpw.qld.gov.au/poolsafety or contact your local council.

Improve your pool safety by following these tips:

- Complete the 'Does your pool pass the test?' checklist available at www.hpw.qld.gov.au/poolsafety.
- Supervise children at all times when near, on, or around swimming pools – many immersions happen in the few seconds that parents are distracted.
- Be ready before going swimming e.g. towels, dry clothes mobile/cordless phone or answering machine on etc.
- Do not leave a child alone or in the care of an older child when around the water.
- Ensure child is within arms' reach.
- Be prepared to get wet in case of an emergency.
- Teach your children to swim but be aware that swimming instruction alone is not a guarantee against drowning.
- Maintain your pool fence and pool gate latches.
- Ensure the gate self-closes and the latch closes automatically.
- Do not tie back your pool gate or obstruct the latch from closing automatically.
- Regularly check your fence for damage and ensure objects near the fence (such as trees and furniture) do not enable a child to climb over the fence.
- Display a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) sign and attend a CPR first aid course.
- Have your pool inspected and certified. To find a licensed pool safety inspector, call the Queensland Building and Construction Commission on 139 333.

For more information, please visit www.hpw.qld.gov.au/poolsafety or contact:

Department of Housing and Public Works

www.hpw.qld.gov.au



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