

## SWIMMING POOL SAFETY FENCING REQUIREMENTS

The majority of 'drownings' in private swimming pools involve children up to five years of age. For that reason these requirements are designed to provide a barrier that will make it difficult for young children to gain access to the pool area.

Fencing is intended to be child resistant but not child proof.

These requirements apply to all private swimming pools and spa pools, including those located indoors, but do not include anything located in a bathroom.

All swimming pool owners should be aware that where death or injury to any person occurs in their pool a legal liability might fall upon them or upon the person responsible for the pool at the time of such incident.

Further, it is an offence under the *Swimming Pools Act, 1992* and Regulation to have a swimming pool or spa pool which is not fenced in accordance with the requirements of the Act, or to alter or interfere with the proper operation of any part of the pool safety fencing.

### LOCATION OF POOL SAFETY FENCING

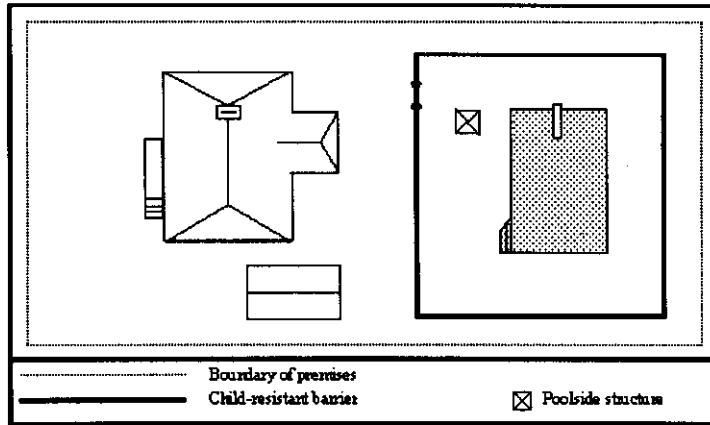
1. All swimming pools and spa pools must be separated from the house and neighbouring properties by a fence complying with the requirements of Australian Standards 1926 'Fences and Gates for Private Swimming Pools'.

Existing boundary fences may be used as pool safety fencing subject to compliance with AS 1926.

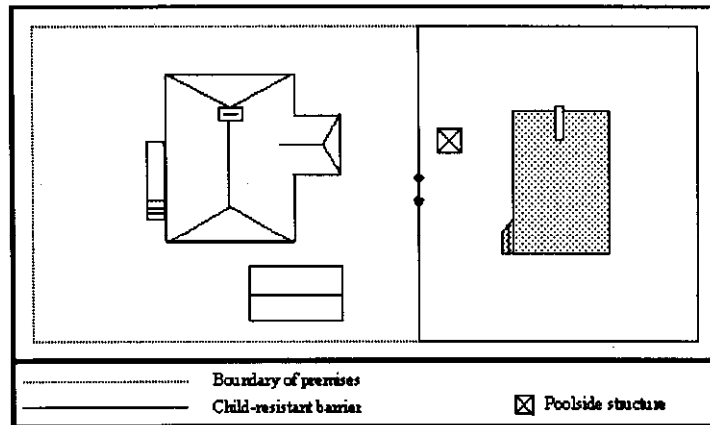
An external wall or portion of an external wall of the house or some other building on the premises may form part of the pool safety fencing subject to:

- i. the wall or portion of the wall forming part of the pool safety fencing shall not contain any doorways into the pool area
- ii. any windows located in the wall or portion of the wall forming part of the pool safety fencing shall be fitted with security mesh grills or bars complying with the requirements of AS 1926.

Example 1



Example 2



Example 3

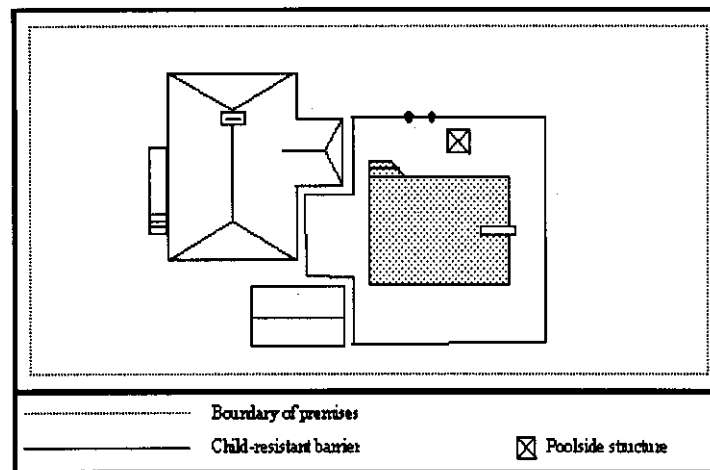
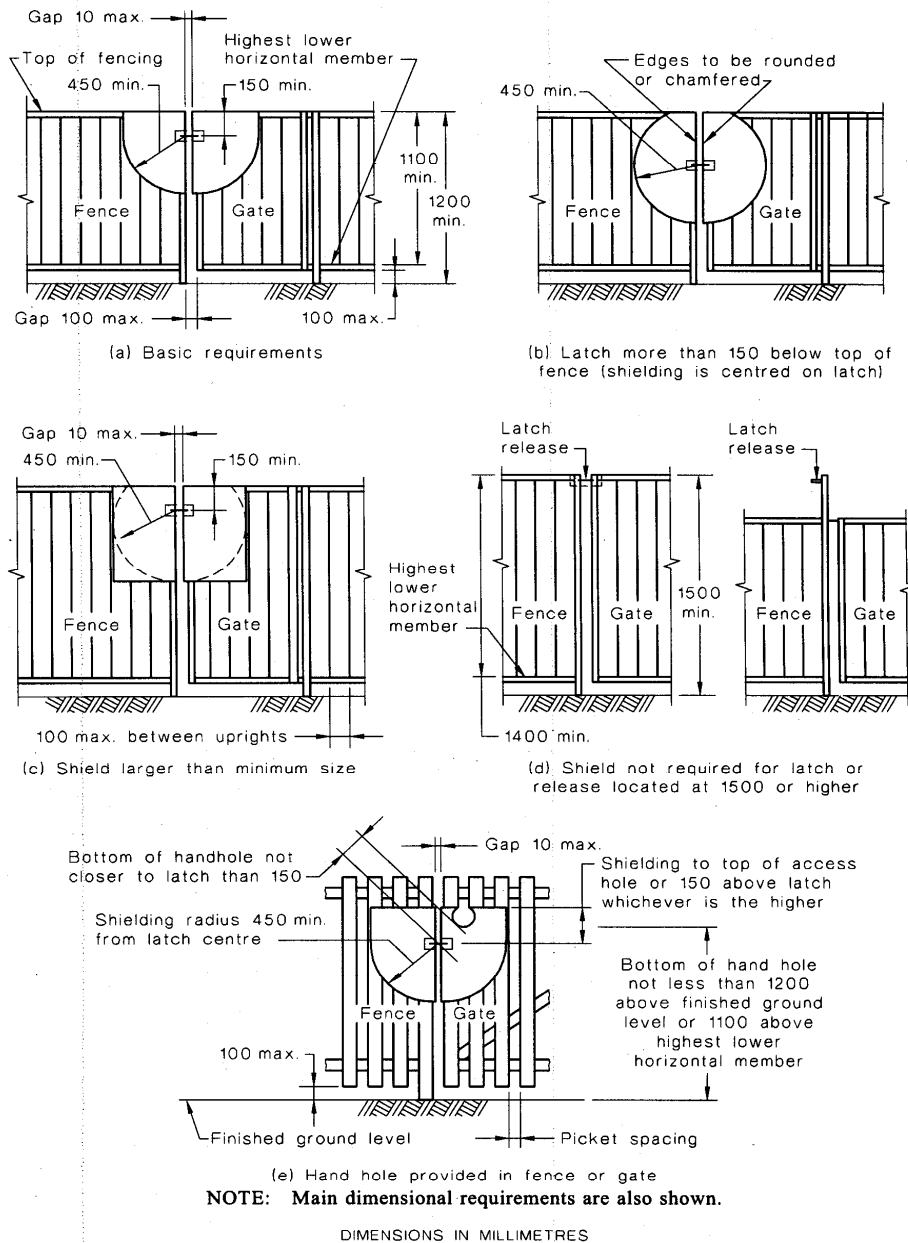


FIGURE 1 – EXAMPLES OF LOCATION OF POOL FENCING

# POOL FENCING HEIGHT

Pool safety fencing within the Shellharbour City Council area shall have a minimum height above the ground surface of 1.2m measured at any point on the external side of the fence.

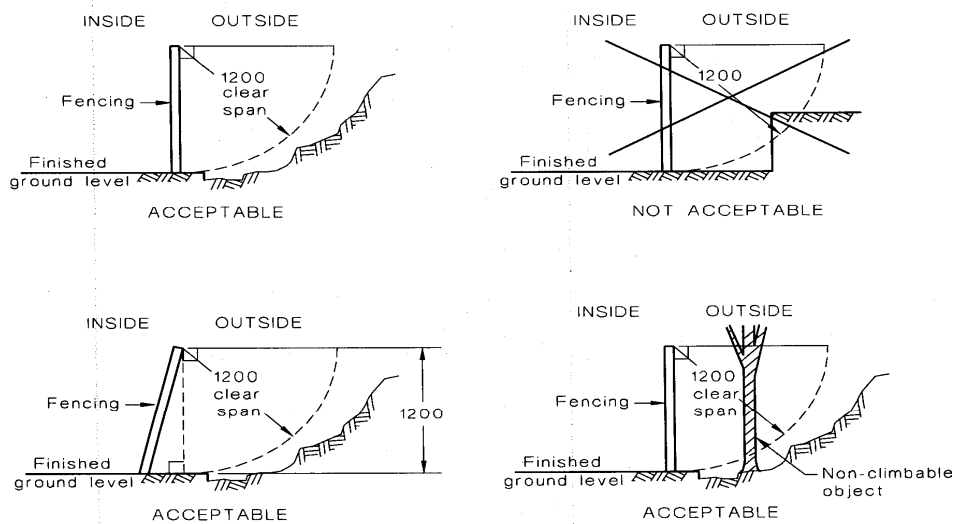


**FIGURE 2 - LATCH SHIELDING FOR FENCES OF OPEN CONSTRUCTION (Main dimensional requirements also illustrated)**

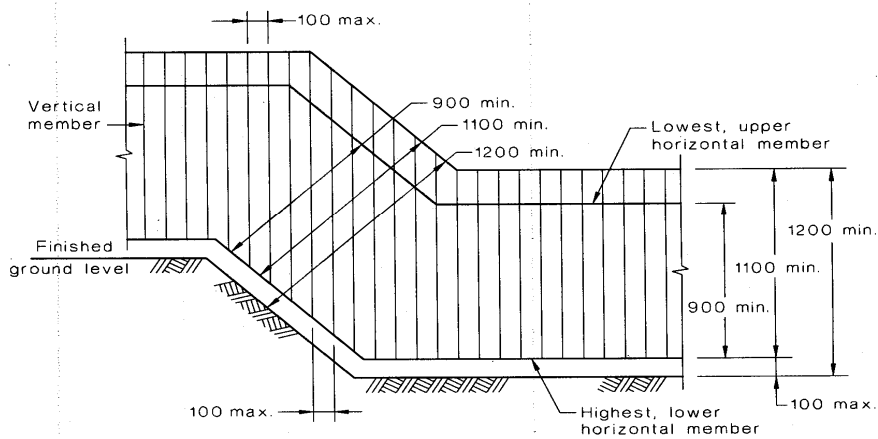
# FENCING HEIGHT

Fences and gates shall have an effective height of at least 1200mm at any point along their length, on the outside of the fencing.

The height shall be considered to be effective if a quadrant of radius 1200mm located as shown in Figure 3 provides a clear span of 1200mm to finished ground level, or to any projections from, or objects on, the ground.



DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES  
EFFECTIVE FENCING HEIGHT



DIMENSION IN MILLIMETRES  
PERPENDICULAR FENCING DIMENSIONS ON SLOPING GROUND

**FIGURE 3 - EFFECTIVE FENCING HEIGHT**

## **GATES**

All gates in the pool safety fencing shall be fitted with self-closing and latching devices complying with the requirements of AS 1926 and shall be hung to swing closed towards the pool area (see Figure 2).

The self-closing mechanism on the gate shall return the gate to the closed position and operate the latching device from any position with a stationary start.

The release for the latching device, if located on the external side of the fence, shall be not less than 1.5m above the ground level.

Where the latching device is located at a height of less than 1.5m above the finished ground level, the location of the latching device and its release mechanism shall be:

1. On the innerface of the fence or gate
2. Shielded by a circular area with a radius of 450mm from the operating parts of the latch in such a position that to release the latch from the outside it will be necessary to reach over or through the fence at a height greater than 1.2m.
3. At least 150mm below the top of the fencing where a hand hole is not provided, or at least 150mm away from the edge of any hand hole opening where a hand hole is provided.

## **GROUND CLEARANCE**

The height of any opening between the bottom of the fence and the finished ground level shall not exceed 100mm.

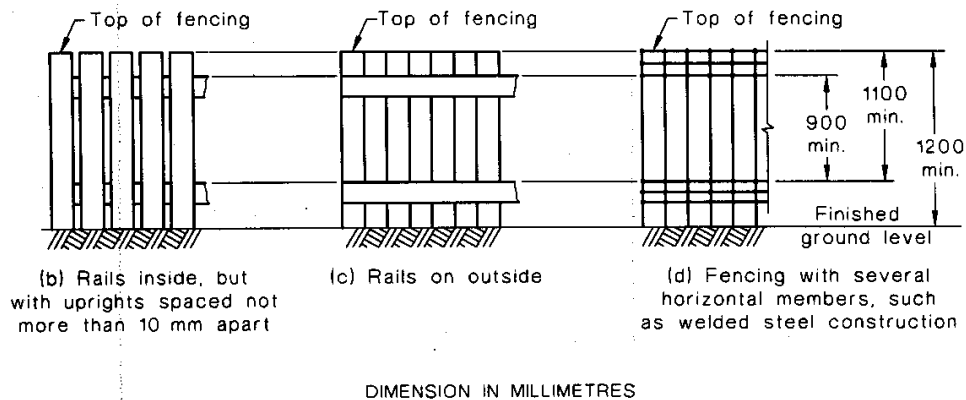
## **VERTICAL MEMBERS**

The spacing between adjacent members as palings, rods or wires shall not exceed 100mm, subject to the horizontal members complying with the requirements of AS 1926 (see below).

## **HORIZONTAL MEMBERS**

Horizontal members shall be not less than 900mm apart. Where there are two or more horizontal members, there shall be not less than 900mm between the

top of the highest lower member and the top of the lower upper member. There shall be not less than 1.1m between the top of the fence and the top of the highest lower member (see Figure 4).



**FIGURE 4**

## **RESUSCITATION CHARTS**

The occupier of any premises in or on which a swimming pool is situated must ensure that there is at all times, maintained in a prominent position, in the immediate vicinity of the swimming pool, a resuscitation chart containing the warning '**YOUNG CHILDREN SHOULD BE SUPERVISED WHEN USING THIS SWIMMING POOL**'.

## **RURAL PROPERTIES**

Pool fencing on rural properties greater than two hectares shall be in accordance with the *Swimming Pool Act 1992*. For further information on the requirements, please contact Council's Customer Services on (02) 4221 6111.

**NOTE:** This Council encourages the installation of a 1.5m high pool fence as an extra precaution against the entry into the pool area by young children.