

FACT SHEET 01: NSW SWIMMING POOL REGISTER



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SWIMMING POOL REGISTER OPEN FROM 29 APRIL 2013 – www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au

From 29 April 2013, pool owners are required to register their backyard swimming pools in an online register to be provided by the NSW State Government. Visit the register website at www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au and follow the easy registration steps.

Swimming pool registration is free. If you can't access the online register after 29 April 2013, your local council will be able to register on your behalf (a fee of up to \$10.00 may apply).

The Register will promote pool safety and pool compliance in response to the challenge of reducing the number of deaths and injuries to children in backyard swimming pools in NSW. The Register will provide pool owners with pool safety checklists to help them to self-assess their pool's safety. Pool owners will be asked to indicate that, to the best of their knowledge, their swimming pool complies with the Standard applicable to their pool. There may be a penalty applied to owners who fail to register a swimming pool by 29th October 2013 (penalty notice amount of \$220).

Q. WHAT IS THE NSW SWIMMING POOL REGISTER?

A. A State-wide record of private backyard swimming pools.

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE REGISTER?

A. The Register aims to improve child safety by promoting the regular maintenance of pool barriers while ensuring those barriers comply with the applicable barrier safety standards. A Pool Compliance Certificate may be issued should a pool compliance inspection be carried out by a Council or private certifier. Pool Compliance Certificates are valid for 3 years.

Q. HOW DO I REGISTER MY POOL?

A. The public can access the NSW Swimming Pool Register via the internet from 29 April 2013 at www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au. Alternately, Councils will be able to register pools on behalf of pool owners. Pool owners should visit their local Councils from 29 April 2013 to have their council register the pool on their behalf. A fee of \$10.00 may be charged for this service.

Q. WHEN DO I HAVE TO REGISTER?

A. All pool owners are required to register their existing pools by 29 October 2013.

Q. WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO ENTER?

A. There will be a number of fields to complete the online registration; including the address of the pool, the type of pool, the age of the pool.

Q. HOW WILL THE INFORMATION ENTERED BE USED?

A. The Swimming Pool Register will assist Councils and water safety agencies to direct water safety information and compliance information to pool owners.

Q. HOW WILL COUNCILS USE THIS INFORMATION?

A. The information collected through the Swimming Pool Register will only be used for the purpose for which it was collected. That is, reducing the incidence of drowning in backyard swimming pools through increased awareness of and compliance with pool safety standards and distribution of water safety resources.

Q. ARE THERE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR POOL FENCING?

A. Yes. In all States and Territories you are legally required to fence all bodies of water over 300mm in depth that are primarily used for human aquatic activity (this including paddling pools and wading pools etc). These requirements differ based on the age of the pool, the type of property (e.g. strata, private, business etc) and where you live (e.g. State and Territory, geographical setting, property configuration etc). Please contact your local council to find out the requirements for your pool.

Q. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE POOL SAFETY ISSUES I NEED TO CONSIDER?

A. Owning and operating a home pool or spa is in some respects no different from running a public pool. You are still aiming to provide a safe, clean environment for your family and friends. The major issue for you as a pool owner is children – your own, your friends and your neighbours.

Q. HOW DO I KEEP MY POOL ENVIRONMENT SAFE?

A. If you own a pool you should visit www.bepoolsafe.com.au for more water safety information. There are Fact Sheets (available in 16 languages), a Safety Checklist and water safety videos.

POOL REGISTER CHECKLIST:

- Go to www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au.
- If you do not have access to the internet, visit your local council.
- Register your details by 29 October 2013.
- Do you have a current CPR Pool Poster?
- Update your CPR skills. Do you know the lifesaving skill of resuscitation?
- Visit the Pool Safety website at www.bepoolsafe.com.au for more water safety information.

To download all the fact sheets on water safety, please visit:
swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au
or call 02 9634 3700



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