



ACT
Government

Swimming pool safety barrier requirements for residential swimming pools and spas in the ACT are changing.

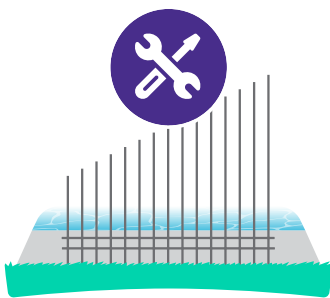
From 1 May 2028 all residential swimming pools and spas in the ACT must have a pool safety barrier compliant with prescribed safety standards.

Pools built between 1 May 2008 and 30 April 2013

New legislation means that the safety barrier around your swimming pool and spa will need to meet new prescribed safety standards. These safety standards are the requirements in the 2022 version of the Building Code of Australia (BCA), incorporating Australian Standards AS 1926.1 (2012) – *Swimming Pool Safety Part 1: Safety barriers for swimming pools* and AS 1926.2 (2007) – *Swimming Pool Safety Part 2: Location of safety barriers for swimming pools*

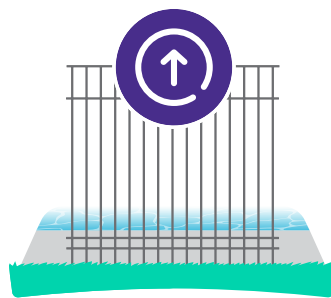
What does this mean for me?

It means that if you have a swimming pool or spa you will have to:



install a pool safety barrier if you do not already have one; or

OR



upgrade your existing pool safety barrier to comply with the prescribed safety standards; and

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obtain a compliance certificate for the new or upgraded pool safety barrier and lodge this with Government within 30 days of it being issued (and before 1 May 2028) or apply for a Ministerial exemption.

What changes will I have to make?

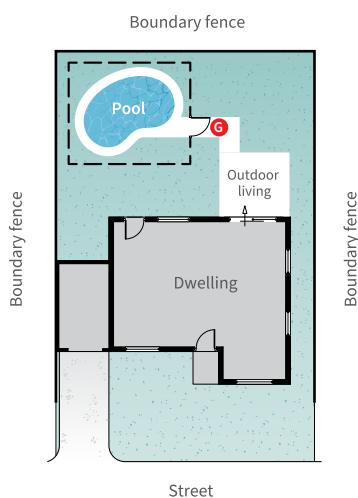
The required changes will depend on the type of safety barrier that is currently in place and the location of the swimming pool or spa in relation to other buildings, structures and boundary fences on the property. For swimming pools or spas for which approvals were issued, or that were built between 1 May 2008 and 30 April 2013, those requirements are set out in the *Building Act 2004* (ACT), the BCA and the Australian Standards in force at the time.

The types of changes you will likely need to make for your pool safety barrier to be compliant with the prescribed safety standards are:

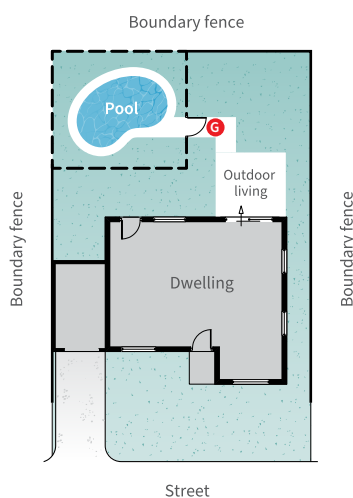
1 May 2008 - 30 April 2013 requirements	Changes required to meet the prescribed safety standards
Barrier must be non-climbable and there is a non-climbable zone on the outside of the fencing except a boundary fence.	The non-climbable zone requirements are now more detailed and specific, including: • 4 non-climbable zone requirements • separate requirements where a boundary fence forms part of the pool barrier • separate requirements for the area where parts of the barrier intersect.
No separate provisions for spa barriers other than the standard barrier requirement.	A spa need not have a fence type of barrier around it if it has a child-resistant lockable structure, such as a door, lid, grille or mesh that meets requirements for construction, fastenings and openings.
Gates to swing outwards freely and to have a self-closing and self-latching device.	In addition, gates must now: • swing outward; • have a latch that cannot be adjusted or locked; • have a latch mechanism positioned either 1500mm from the ground or shielded so children cannot access it; and • contain an approved form of gate unit.
Windows opening onto a pool area and less than 900mm from the floor must be: • covered by bars or a screen; or • fixed to the building to remain closed or • only openable to 100mm.	Windows opening onto a pool area that are less than 1800mm in height from the floor must be: • covered by bars or a screen; or • fixed to remain closed; or • only openable to 100mm.
A wall in a building which includes a door is permitted to form part of a pool barrier, so long as child-resistant doorsets are used.	A door cannot be located in a pool barrier, except where it provides access to indoor pools or the indoor part of an indoor/outdoor pool. This means that the wall of a building can't be used as part of a pool barrier for an outdoor pool if that wall has a door in it (such as the back door of an adjacent house). Where a door is used for an indoor pool, the child-resistance requirements for it have increased so that: • the release for latching device must be on the outside of the door; • the door can't open toward the pool; and • there is a non-climbable zone outside the door.
Balcony balustrades must comply if: • they protrude into the pool area; • are less than 1800mm above the ground level of the pool; or • the balcony floor is within 900mm of the top of the pool barrier.	A balcony balustrade that protrudes into the non-climbable zone must comply with the non-climbable zone requirements.
For above ground pools, the walls of the pool will be an effective barrier if they meet the requirements for: • the non-climbable zone; • avoiding climbable projections or indentations in the barrier surface; • avoiding horizontal members in the non-climbable zone; and • spacing of horizontal and vertical members. There must be a barrier around ladders at the access points and ladders and filters must be located away from the non-climbable zone.	The walls of an above ground pool will be an effective barrier if: • they are factory fabricated and designed for assembly and installation on site, including inflatable pools; • they are 1200mm in height from the outside; and • otherwise meet non-climbability and construction requirements for barriers. In addition to the height requirements, there must be a barrier around any permanent ladders and access points for permanent ladders.
Glass infill panel barriers required to meet structural strength requirements.	In addition to the barrier meeting structural strength requirements, glass panels must comply with AS 1288 as to composition of the glass.

Examples of compliant pool safety barriers:

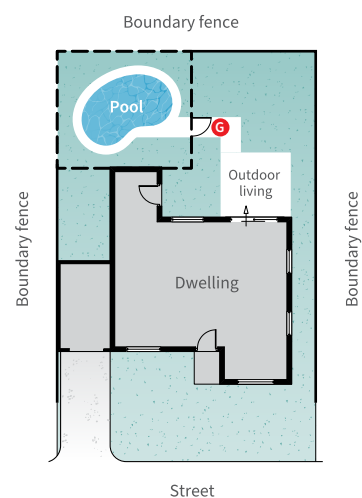
Example 1



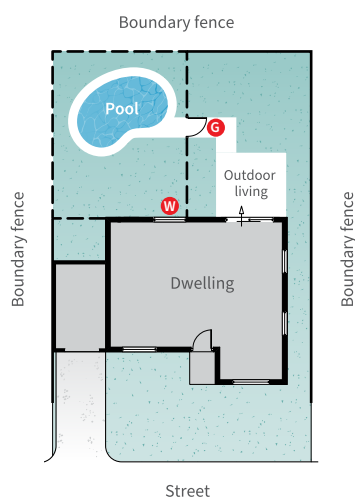
Example 2



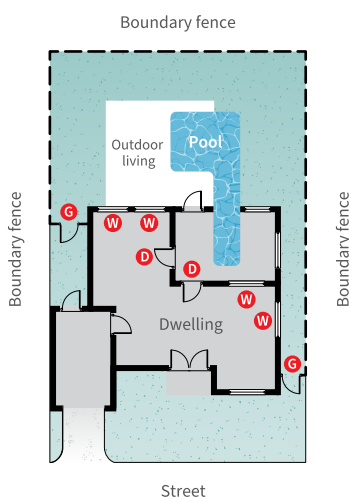
Example 3



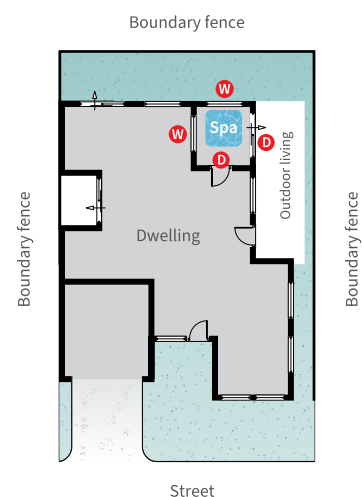
Example 4



Example 5



Example 6



Legend

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| G Gate complying with AS 1926.1 |  Openable window NOT complying with AS 1926.1 |  Fence, retaining wall or other such barrier complying with AS 1926.1 |
| D Child-resistant doorset complying with AS 1926.1 |  Sliding door NOT complying with AS 1926.1 |  Wall of dwelling with no openings |
| W Child-resistant openable window complying with AS 1926.1 | | |

Diagrams for Barriers and Gates based on figures from AS 1926.1-2012. © Standards Australia Limited

*This factsheet sets out a summary of the main differences between the requirements applicable between 1 May 2008 and 30 April 2013 and the prescribed safety standards. The changes you are required to make to your pool barrier will depend on the exact date on which your pool was built, how it is located on the property and whether any changes have been made since it was first built. You should obtain technical advice to confirm exactly what is required to bring it into compliance with the prescribed safety standards.

** BCA versions in force during this period were:

- BCA 2008 for the period from 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009;
- BCA 2009 for the period from 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2010;
- BCA 2010 for the period from 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011;
- NCC 2011 for the period from 1 May 2011 to 30 April 2012;
- NCC 2012 for the period from 1 May 2012 to 30 April 2013.