

Summer Safety Alert: Protecting Our Little Ones

As summer approaches, it's important to remember that drowning is a leading cause of accidental death among Australian children. To keep young children safe around backyard swimming pools, follow these four key actions from the Royal Life Saving Australia's Keep Watch campaign: Supervise, Restrict, Teach, and Respond.

Supervise: Always keep a close watch on children around water.

Restrict: Ensure pool areas are securely fenced and access is restricted.

Teach: Educate children about water safety and swimming skills.

Respond: Be prepared to act quickly in case of an emergency.

Installing a pool safety barrier

If your swimming pool or spa can hold a depth of water of 300mm (30cm) or more, there is a requirement for it to be surrounded by a compliant barrier. The owner may only install the pool, which includes an inflatable or relocatable pool, after a safety barrier is installed.

This requirement applies to pools and spas installed from 1994 onwards. Owners of pools built before 1994 are encouraged to install and maintain a pool safety barrier to protect their own safety and that of the community.

The requirement applies to:

- In-ground pools
- Indoor pools (excluding bathroom spa-baths)
- Above ground pools
- Inflatable and relocatable pools
- Wading pools holding 300mm (30cm) of water
- Hot tubs/spas

In Tasmania, the installation of pool safety barriers must be performed by a licensed builder and overseen by a licensed building surveyor.

For more information visit:

- www.cbos.tas.gov.au/pool-safety-barriers for further information of pool safety barrier requirements
- www.royallifesaving.com.au for further information on the keep watch campaign

Stay safe and enjoy a fun-filled summer!