

The ABC of pool safety

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:

A

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.

B

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.

C

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 1800 340 634.

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

Department of Housing and Public Works
www.hpw.qld.gov.au