

# SPASA FACT SHEET No. 2

## POOL SAFETY.....

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The first requirement for pool owners is to be safety conscious. Being aware of the risks goes a long way towards eliminating them.

### POOL FENCING.

The NSW Swimming Pools Act requires that all swimming pools be fenced unless specifically exempted.

Fences must be at least 1.2 m high and gates must be self closing and self latching. The fencing must separate the pool from residential buildings and neighbouring properties.

#### MAJOR POINTS;

- *Fencing requirements must be met prior to filling the pool*
- *Fencing and gates should be checked periodically to ensure they continue to satisfy the regulations*
- *Don't leave furniture or other items that children can climb on near your pool fence or above-ground pool.*

### POOL COVERS

Swimming pool covers of various types are used to keep dust and leaves out of pools and to retain heat within pools. Most pool covers do not provide protection against children getting into the pool, and may present a hazard in that if a child does get into the pool under the cover they cannot be seen.

Some pool covers may give the illusion of being solid and encourage a child to attempt to walk on it. This will cause the cover to sag and the child may drown in pool water or accumulated rain water.

When the pool is being used, the cover should be removed. The cover should never be left partially over the pool.

- Pool covers should never be considered a substitute for a fence or proper supervision

### USE OF THE POOL

Most domestic pools are not designed for diving. Unless your pool has been specifically built for this purpose, you should not allow pool users to dive. You should also ensure that obstacles which may be used as diving platforms are not placed near the pool.

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Severe injuries can result from divers hitting the side or bottom of pools - you are therefore protecting your family and friends by adopting a **NO DIVING** policy!

The same can be said for “rough-house” play around or in the pool.

We suggest that you should display a “ NO DIVING” sign in your pool area and affix depth markers on or near the pool. Diving boards, slippery dips, trampolines etc. can be dangerous and should only be used if your pool has been specifically designed for their safe use. Even then, constant adult supervision is important to prevent accidents.

Ensure that your pool is clearly visible from the house.

**MAJOR SAFETY POINTS;**

- Supervise pool users at all times especially children.
- Never leave a child unsupervised around the pool.
- Ensure the regular maintenance of fences and gates.
- Never leave a gate open or leave objects near the pool area that could be used by a child to climb over the fence.
  
- Place “NO DIVING” signs near your pool unless it has been specifically designed to allow safe diving.
- Drinking and swimming don’t mix - don’t allow alcohol to be consumed by pool users.
- Keep glasses and other breakables away from the pool area - using plastic can prevent injury.
- Obtain adult training in basic resuscitation techniques.

**REMEMBER - there is no substitute for ADULT SUPERVISION of pool users at all times.**

For further information on building, renovating or maintaining a pool, contact;

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