

# **Pools and Spas - Information Sheet**

## **Pool and Spa Safety Barriers**

Drowning is the most common cause of preventable death of children aged 0 – 5 years. It is estimated that for every drowning, 10 children are admitted to hospital as a result of a near-drowning.

The Shire has a legislative obligation to ensure that swimming pools and spa safety barriers within the district are inspected at least once every four years. This is to ensure the barriers are installed and maintained in accordance with AS 1926.1-1993, AS 1926.2-2007 & AS 1926.1- 2012 for pools installed after May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.

## **Responsibilities of Pool and Spa Owners**

### **Building Permits**

The *Building Act 2011* and the *Building Regulations 2012*, require a building permit be obtained prior to construction or installation of a swimming pool, spa or safety barrier.

Note: The pool and safety barriers applications can be submitted separately

### **Safety Barriers**

The *Building Regulations 2012* state that all property owners and occupiers of a property with a domestic swimming pool and/or spa containing more than 300mm of water are required to install or provide a safety barrier around the pool and/or spa. This is to restrict access by young children to the pool and/or spa and its immediate surrounds.

It should be noted that inflatable and portable pools, 300mm deep or more, are not exempt from pool fencing laws

## **Handy Tips for Pool and Spa Safety at Home**

Here are some tips to keep your swimming pool or spa safe:

- Always close pool and spa gates
- Ensure the gate self-closes and self-latches from all positions (propping a gate open is against the law and may result in a fine)
- Remove all climbable objects adjacent to the pool/spa barrier (outside and inside)
- Ensure continued maintenance of the safety barrier

## **Further information**

To obtain further information regarding swimming pool and spa barriers please visit the Building Commissions website via the link below

<http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/building-commission/swimming-and-spa-pools>