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## Swimming Pool/Spa Fence & Gate Requirements

### Fence

#### 1) Material and/or Durability

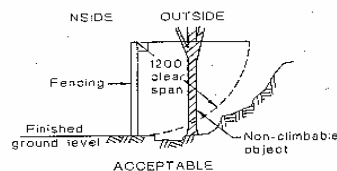
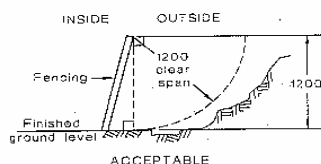
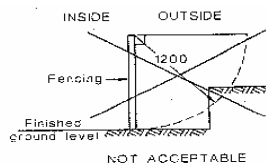
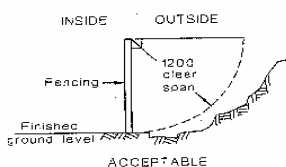
All fencing should be constructed from any type of material that can provide an unclimbable completed barrier. The chosen material, including all fittings and latching mechanisms must be durable and of satisfactory design and strength for their intended purpose.

These materials must not be affected by exposure to the natural elements (sun, rain, moisture), pool chemicals, atmospheric pollution, insect (termites etc.) natural decay (wood rot, rust etc.) ground water, salt spray, abuse by a child, or any other element which will render fence unsatisfactory.

It is recommended that fencing be purchased from, and erected by, a reputable fencing supplier or contractor.

#### 2) Perpendicular Height and/or Quadrant Radius

Fences must have an effective perpendicular (vertical) height above existing ground surface or any object of at least 1.2m (1200mm) at any point along its length on the outside of the pool area. Exemptions may occur where adjoining neighbours fences are used. The height shall be deemed effective if a quadrant radius (an arc of 90°) of 1.2m provides a clear span to finished ground level. (see diagram below)



### 3) Gap Between Uprights

The spacing between any adjacent members, such as palings, rods or wires or the like, shall not exceed 100mm at any point. The following diagrams represent the most common and practical layouts for correctly fencing pools in accordance with the Local Government Act and 1989 Building Regulations Part 10.

A pool fence may incorporate the use of boundary fence/s subject to the following requirements:

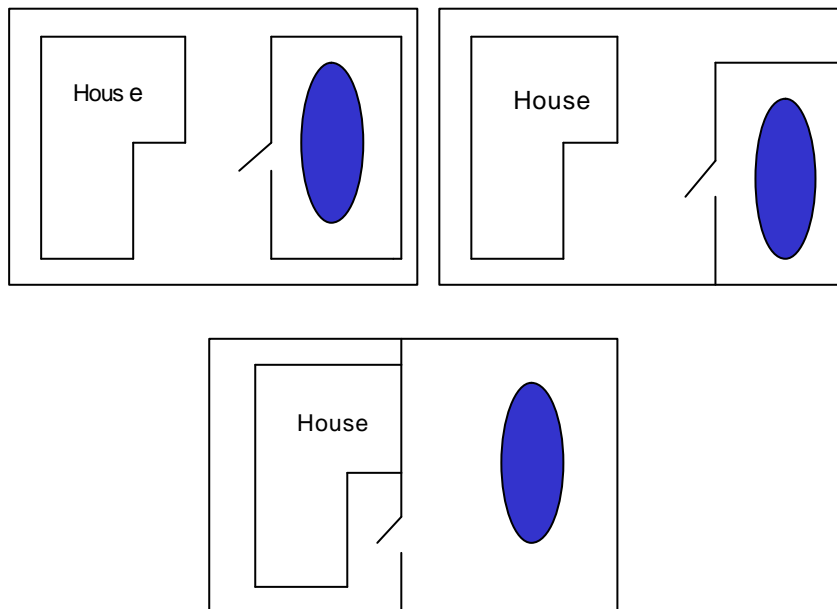
- the inside surface shall be non climbable
- the inside surface shall have a height of 1.2m or greater

Note: By utilizing boundary fence (shown in diag. 2 & 3) The City recommend pool owners periodically inspect neighbouring side of boundary fence to prevent claimable objects such as bricks, lattice, and wood piles being established.

A pool fence may incorporate the use of a dwelling wall subject to the following requirements:

- The wall/s contain no door openings
- the wall/s may contain windows, however all openable windows, shall have a permanent stop or chain so that they do not open more than 100mm in any direction.

These three (3) diagrams are a guide to fencing requirement and may not suit non standard layout, therefore, it is advisable to contact the City Swimming Pool Inspector to clarify any queries you may have.



#### 4) Ground Clearance

The height of any opening between the bottom of the fencing or gate and finished ground level shall not exceed 100mm.

#### 5) Projections from and/or Indentations into the Outside Surface of Fence/Wall

Projections from or indentations into, must have a depth of less than 10mm unless they are spaced at least 900mm apart. The lower of these should be no less than 1100mm below the top of the fence or gate.

#### 6) Fence Lean

The fence shall either be vertical, or shall lean (maximum 5°) away from the pool.

#### 7) Horizontal/Diagonal Members on the Outside

All fencing and gate components providing a substantially horizontal or diagonal surface, such as rails, rods, wire or bracing, that could be used as hold for climbing, should be placed on the inside of the fence. However, here such parts are located on the outside of the fencing, the following requirements shall apply:

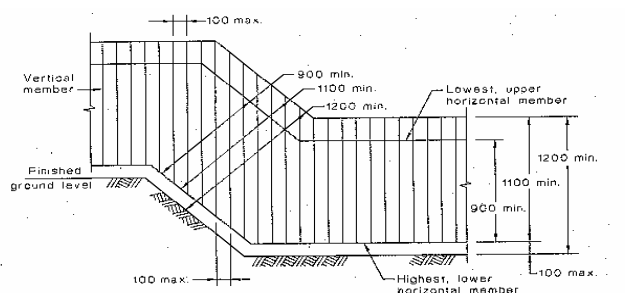
- Horizontal members shall be at least 900mm apart, OR
- suitable shielding shall be installed on outside surface.

#### 8) Horizontal/Diagonal Members on Inside

Where such parts are located on the inside of the fencing, and where vertical members (pickets etc) have gaps of more than 10mm in width the following requirements shall apply:

- Horizontal members shall be at least 900mm apart, or
- appropriate shielding shall be placed either on inside or outside surface to eliminate toe, hand or foot holds. This shielding may comprise either:
- ply, sheet material or any other type of non-climbable material, OR
- gaps between vertical members may be filled so width is reduced to 10mm or less.

#### 9) Sloping or Step Down Fence Inadequate Height



## 10) Pool Fence Has Objects Within 1200MM

Climbable objects such as trees, barbecues, pot plants, cubby house or the like, shall be placed a minimum of 1200mm from the outside of the pool fence.

### Gate

#### 11) Upward/Downward Movement Unsatisfactory

When a gate is closed and latched and is lifted upwards or pulled downwards with a force of 250 N, movement of the gate shall not -

- Release the latching device
- Unhinge the gate
- Increase the ground clearance beyond 100mm.

#### 12) Gate Swing

All gates may open in any direction except towards the pool.

#### 13) Self-closing Requirements **SELF-CLOSING REQUIREMENTS**

All gates shall be fitted with a device that will return the gate to the closed position and operate the latching device from any position.

Problems preventing this may include:

- Return spring requires adjustment
- Gate hinge requires maintenance
- gate scrapes on ground or latch post
- gate latch doesn't connect correctly

#### 14) Latching Device

Gates shall be fitted with a self-latching device that will automatically operate on the closing of the gate and will prevent the gate from being re-opened without manually releasing the mechanism.

#### 15) Latch Location

Where latch is located at a height in excess of 1.5m above the finished ground level, the latch may be positioned on either the inside or outside of the gate. Where latch is located at a height of less than 1.5m the following shall apply:

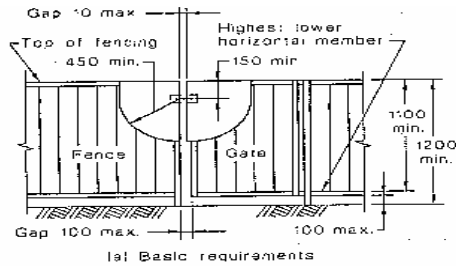
- Not to be located on outside of gate
- To be in such a position that to release the latch from the outside, it will be necessary to reach over the top OR through a hand hole opening in the gate located at a height not less than 1.2m above finished ground level.
- To be at least 150mm below the top of the gate where a hand hole is not provided OR at least 150mm below any hand hole opening where a hand hole is provided.

#### 16) Latch Protection

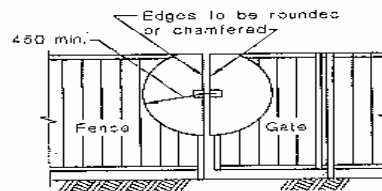
Where the release to the latch and/or the latch itself, is located at a height less than 1.5m the following shall apply (see diagram below)

The latch and/or its release shall be so shielded that no opening greater than 10mm occurs within an area bounded by a circular or near circular area with a radius of 450mm from the operating parts of the latch AND the top of the fence, if this intersects the area described above.

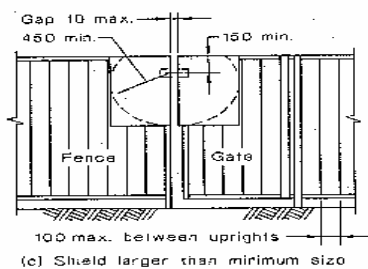
Shielding shall be extended 150mm above the top of the latch, if the latch is located at top of gate and at a height less than 1.5m. This applies to open bar type fence/gates.



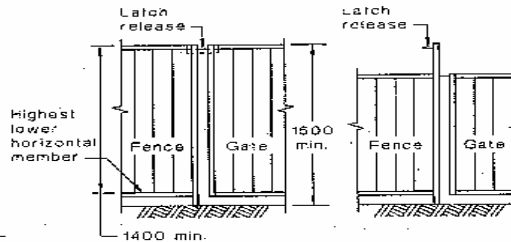
(a) Basic requirements



(b) Latch more than 150 below top of fence (shielding is centred on latch)



(c) Shield larger than minimum size



(d) Shield not required for latch or release located at 1500 or higher

## 17) Gap Between Uprights

The spacing between any adjacent members, such as palings, rods or wires or the like, shall not exceed 100mm at any point.

### General

## 18) Safety Hazards

Fencing shall be free of safety hazards which may include sharp edges, projections and the like.

## 19) Strength of Fence, Post, Footings and/or Gates

When tested the following shall apply:

- there shall be no permanent damage to any post
- footings shall not be loosened
- the ability of any gate to self close and self latch shall not be impaired, and
- structural components such as panel infills, top and bottom rails, rods, palings, pickets and the like shall be free of breakages, fractures and permanent deformities of more than 100mm over it's length.

## 20) Access to Pool Via Other Means

Refers primarily to garage/carport access to pool area through such devices as rolladoors, tiltadoors, double/single doors or alike. Any such barrier shall comply with items 3, 4, 5 & 16.

Alternatively, a suitable fence/gate may be erected between garage/carport and pool area.

**21) Ground Under Fence/Gate**

The ground under fence/gate shall be of suitable material so as to not allow digging, erosion or the like to create an access for children.

**All Safety barriers must be inspected by the City prior to the pool being filled with water. Owners are required to contact the City to arrange this inspection on  
9474 0777**

Disclaimer: The information contributed in this booklet is a guide only to the minimum requirements for the safety aspects of Private Swimming Pools and should not to be taken as an all-inclusive document that can change from time to time.

Last Amendment 5/11/2001