

# Australian Plunge Pool Safety Overview

## National Compliance Handout (NSW • QLD • ACT • VIC • SA)

*Pool safety laws and approval requirements differ across states, councils, and properties. It is the customer's responsibility to verify compliance with their local council or a licensed pool safety inspector prior to installation.*

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### 1. When Pool Safety Laws Apply

Across **New South Wales, Queensland, the ACT, Victoria and South Australia**, pool safety laws apply to any pool or spa capable of holding more than 300 mm of water, including:

- In-ground pools
- Above-ground plunge pools
- Portable or prefabricated pools
- Fixed or temporary pools

#### **This means:**

- A 5000 L above-ground plunge pool (1200 mm high) is regulated
- A 2000 L above-ground plunge pool (880 mm high) is also regulated
- A 1300 L above-ground plunge pool (900 mm high) is also regulated

If a pool can hold more than 300 mm of water, it is regulated in all listed states.

### 2. Pool Safety Barriers (Fencing)

A compliant child-resistant safety barrier (pool fence) is required in all states.

#### **What the Barrier Must Do**

- Restrict access to the pool by young children
- Be installed and maintained at all times
- Separate the pool from dwellings and accessible areas

#### **Typical Minimum Barrier Standards (Nationally Consistent)**

##### **Height**

- Minimum 1.2 m (1200 mm) above finished ground level
- Boundary fences used as barriers must generally be 1.8 m high on the pool side

##### **Gaps**

- No gap greater than 100 mm under the fence
- No gap greater than 100 mm between vertical members

## Non-Climbable Zone

- The area around the fence must be free of climbable objects
- Furniture, pot plants, BBQs, toys or structures must not be placed near the barrier

## Gates

- Must be self-closing and self-latching
- Latches must be at least 1.5 m above ground or otherwise child-resistant

## Important

- Above-ground plunge pool walls are NOT usually accepted as a safety barrier
  - In most cases, a separate compliant pool fence is required
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## 3. Lockable Rigid Covers

Across all states:

- A lockable rigid cover does NOT replace the requirement for a compliant pool fence
- Covers may be included as an additional safety feature only
- Limited exemptions may apply to spa pools, but generally do not apply to plunge pools

Customers should expect that a compliant pool fence will still be required, even if a lockable rigid cover is supplied.

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## 4. Registration, Certification & Sale / Lease Requirements

While safety principles are consistent nationally, administration differs by state:

State	Register Required	Certificate for Sale / Lease	Notes
NSW	Yes	Yes	Certificate generally valid ~3 years
QLD	Yes	Yes	1–2 year validity depending on pool type
ACT	No register	Yes	Building approval required
VIC	Yes	Yes	Ongoing re-inspection cycles
SA	No register	Case-by-case	Council-managed

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## 5. Approval & Inspection – What Customers Must Do

Before installing a plunge pool, customers should:

1. Contact their local council or certifier early
2. Confirm whether planning or building approval is required
3. Submit plans showing:
  - Pool size and capacity
  - Location on the property
  - Structural support and footings
  - Pool safety barrier design
  - Compliance with AS 1926 and relevant state rules

After installation:

- The pool and barrier must be installed exactly as approved
  - An inspection must be arranged
  - If compliant, a certificate or approval will be issued
  - If non-compliant, rectification works will be required
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## 6. Key Takeaways for Customers

- If a pool holds more than 300 mm of water, it is regulated
  - A compliant pool fence is almost always required
  - Above-ground walls and lockable covers are not enough
  - Registration, approvals and certificates vary by state and council
  - Always confirm requirements before purchasing or installing a plunge pool
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### **IMPORTANT**

*The information provided by Pure Plunge is intended as general guidance only and has been sourced from multiple state and federal government websites. Pool safety and approval requirements can vary by state, council, property type, and site conditions, and regulations may change over time. Customers are responsible for confirming all relevant approvals and compliance requirements with their local council, building surveyor, or licensed pool safety inspector before purchasing, installing, or using a plunge pool.*