



# Environmental Health Information Sheet: Swimming Pool and Spa Safety

## Introduction

If you own or operate a swimming pool or spa for private use or public, it is important to know and understand what is required of you. There are Hospitality Guidelines, New Zealand Legislation and Standards relating to swimming pools and spas which aim to keep users safe and healthy. Pool fencing, training and chemical levels are just some of the topics covered by these publications. Please take the time to read this document and if you have any further questions contact the Community and District Health Department of the District Health Board on 03 364 7844 or 0800 102 702.

## Fencing

The Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987 is the legislation which requires *every* below ground swimming pool to be fenced in accordance with the Building Code. The Barrier around the pool must:

- Restrict the entry of a child under the age of 6
- Be constructed so that the fencing cannot readily be used as seats
- Have latching devices not readily operated by children
- Have gates that readily close and latch when released from any stationary position 150mm or more from the closed position
- Have no permanent objects on the outside of the fence that could provide a climbing step

## Filtration and Chemicals

Swimming pool water has to have the right chemical balance to keep it clean and free of nasty bugs that could make you sick. A functional filtration system which is serviced regularly is also required. Automatic chlorine injection or salt water chlorination are two of the most common forms of pool chemical systems used in public and private swimming pools. If you are unsure what system is operating at your pool you should contact a pool servicing company to help you. It is important to test the chemical levels in your pool at least twice daily and as a guide:

- Chlorine should be maintained between 1-4ppm
- pH should be maintained between 7.2-7.8

The full set of parameters for pool water quality is set out in the NZ Standard 5826:2000; this can be purchased at [www.standards.co.nz](http://www.standards.co.nz)

## Training

For *all public* swimming pools and spas the operation of the water treatment system shall be the responsibility of a person holding the NZQA unit standards in swimming pool water quality. A qualified person must be accessible when the pool is operating. For more information a copy of the NZS 5826:2000 can be purchased at [www.standards.co.nz](http://www.standards.co.nz)

## Further information

For more information on all aspects of swimming pool and spa safety go to <http://www.poolsafe.org.nz/> or contact the Community and District Health Department of the District Health Board on 03 364 7844 or 0800 102 702.