

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY BARRIER GUIDE & OPTIONS

To Australian Standard AS1926.1-2007 & BCA 2010

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Measurements are in millimetres, drawings are not to scale

INTRODUCTION: A new standard for swimming pool fencing, Australian Standard AS1926.1-2007 has been introduced and is effective for pools/spas built after 1st May 2010. Australian Standard AS1926.1-1993 remains in use for pools and spas built prior to May 1st 2010.

There are several changes, two in particular. Protection of property boundary fences and restriction of the use of a "child resistant doorset" as part of the pool safety barrier. To protect against climbing a property boundary fence and typical barrier, a Non Climbable Zone (NCZ) has been introduced.

With the introduction of the NCZ, it is now preferable for the horizontal rails of a property boundary fence to be on the neighbours side rather than on the pool side of the fence. This means that a neighbouring property will not affect compliance with AS1926.1-2007. Therefore there are no restrictions on the placement of objects on the adjoining property ie. sheds, trees, dog kennels and BBQ's etc.

The new standard requires a safety barrier to be provided between the dwelling and its associated buildings, and the swimming pool. Cubbies, BBQ's or clothes lines etc. are not recommended within the swimming pool safety barrier.

OBJECTIVE: The objective is to create a barrier to restrict the access of young children under the age of 5 years to swimming pools.

MATERIALS: The materials and design for the barrier must be sufficiently strong and rigid to prevent forced entry by a child to the swimming pool area and must comply with Australian Standard AS1926.1-2007. All barriers must remain in good condition and constructed of durable materials fit for the purpose (intended use).

CHILD RESISTANT DOORSETS & WINDOWS: (not illustrated)

Child Resistant Doorsets are NOT PERMITTED as part of your safety barrier for an outdoor swimming pool.

Child Resistant Windows to be restricted to 100 max opening or to be fitted with a security screen.

Where hinges protrude more than 10mm or the gap between the post and gate is greater than 10mm a 900 min. and a 1000 min. vertical separation is required to prevent hinges climbable.

TYPICAL SAFETY BARRIER:- The minimum height of an internal swimming pool barrier is 1200 measured on the approach side (outside) of the barrier. Refer figure 1. Where the barrier is to be installed on a slope and the fence panels are to be stepped, attention to the distance between the horizontal members of adjoining panels is required.

A 900 NCZ between the horizontal rails on each panel and 1000 Min. to the top must be maintained.

GATES:- Gates installed in the internal barrier must be self closing and self latching with a latch release 1500 high and must open away (outward) from the pool.

NON CLIMBABLE ZONE (NCZ):

The NCZ is a 900 high vertical continuous section on the barrier, free of projections & indentations greater than 10mm, that can be used as a finger or foothold, enabling a child to climb up or down the barrier. Which side of the barrier the NCZ is positioned and the height it is measured from depends on whether the barrier is a typical pool barrier or a boundary fence. For an typical pool barrier the 900 NCZ is measured from the top of the highest horizontal member on the outside of the barrier. For a boundary fence the 900 NCZ is measured on the poolside from the top of the fence.

As shown in figures 2a & 2b, the NCZ includes an associated area within a 900 radius. No climbable object, tree or structure with a horizontal surface greater than 10mm is permitted within this area. Note - Climbable objects are not to be placed where the object may compromise the minimum barrier height requirement.

300 NCZ inside of pool safety barrier. Not required where vertical members are less than 10mm apart or where solid type fencing material is used

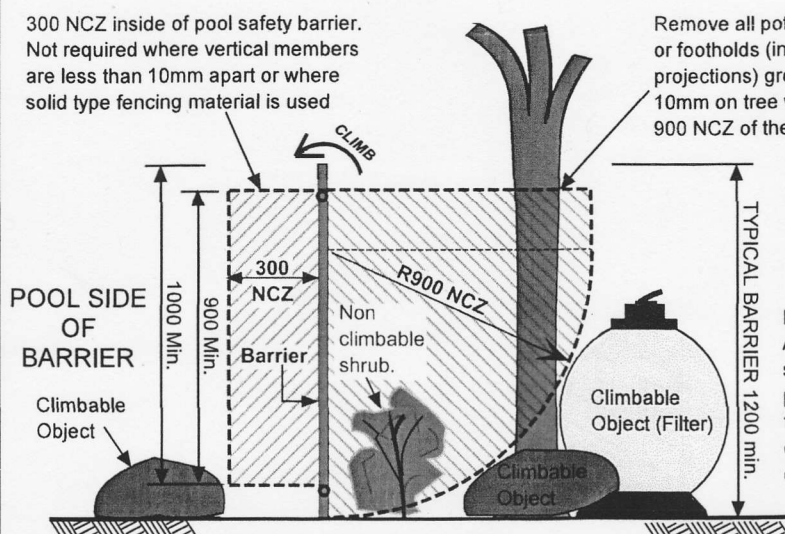


Figure 2a NON CLIMBABLE ZONE
TYPICAL SAFETY BARRIER

Remove all potential finger or footholds (indentations/projections) greater than 10mm on tree within the 900 NCZ of the barrier.

Note: A non climbable shrub means any plant with soft foliage incapable of supporting a child's weight.

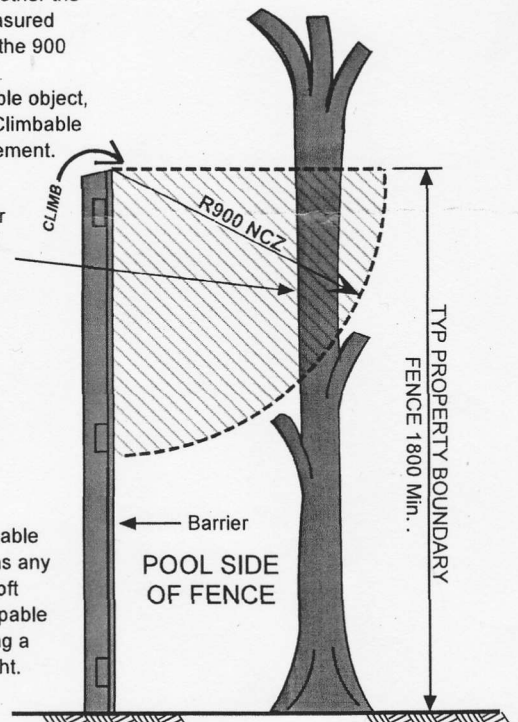


Figure 2b NON CLIMBABLE ZONE
PROPERTY BOUNDARY FENCE

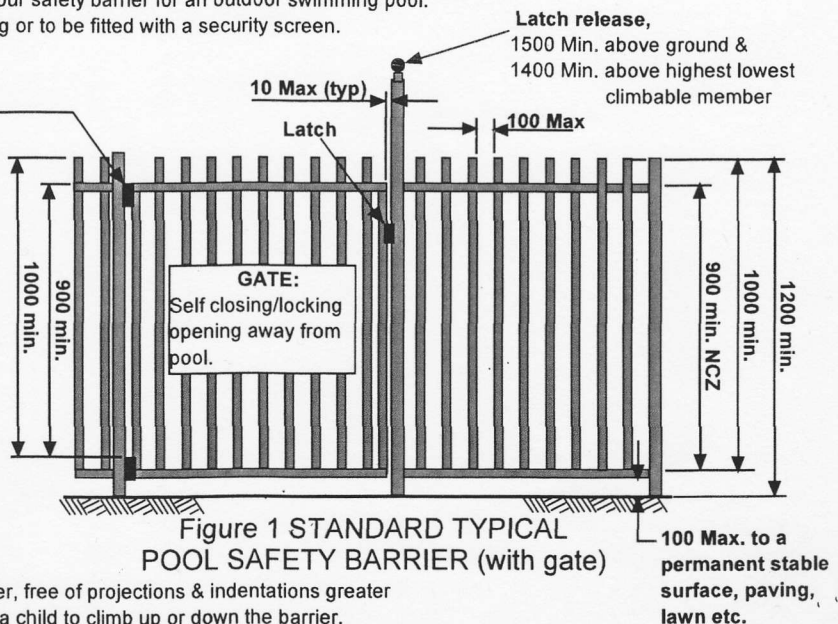


Figure 1 STANDARD TYPICAL
POOL SAFETY BARRIER (with gate)

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PROPERTY BOUNDARY FENCE:- The minimum height of a boundary fence, paling, colorbond etc, is 1800 measured on the pool side of the fence. The NCZ is measured from the top of the fence. Ideally **Option A** in Figure 3 with the horizontal rails on the neighbours side is the easiest option. Where the horizontal rails are on the pool side of the fence, option B, C, or D can be used where the rails must be made non-climbable.

Option "B" - Provide vertical palings to cover the top and middle rails staggered with 10mm max. gap or a solid type sheeting. Securely fasten with screws or nails (allow for shrinkage in the timber).

Option "C" - Fix a second timber rail on the top rail finishing flush with the top of the fence, to provide the 900 NCZ to the middle rail or the next rail down. Finish flush with the vertical face of the top horizontal rail.

Option "D" - A 60 deg timber splay fixed to the top rail. Fill gaps between the staggered palings above the rail with a timber infill to the top of the fence. No gaps greater than 10mm (allow for shrinkage).

Option "E" - Construct a fence with rails correctly spaced, See figure 5, page 3 for details.

Note: The property boundary fence height may depend on type of intersecting pool barrier used to maintain the 900 NCZ between the top surface of the pool barrier and top surface of the barrier fence. Refer figure 4

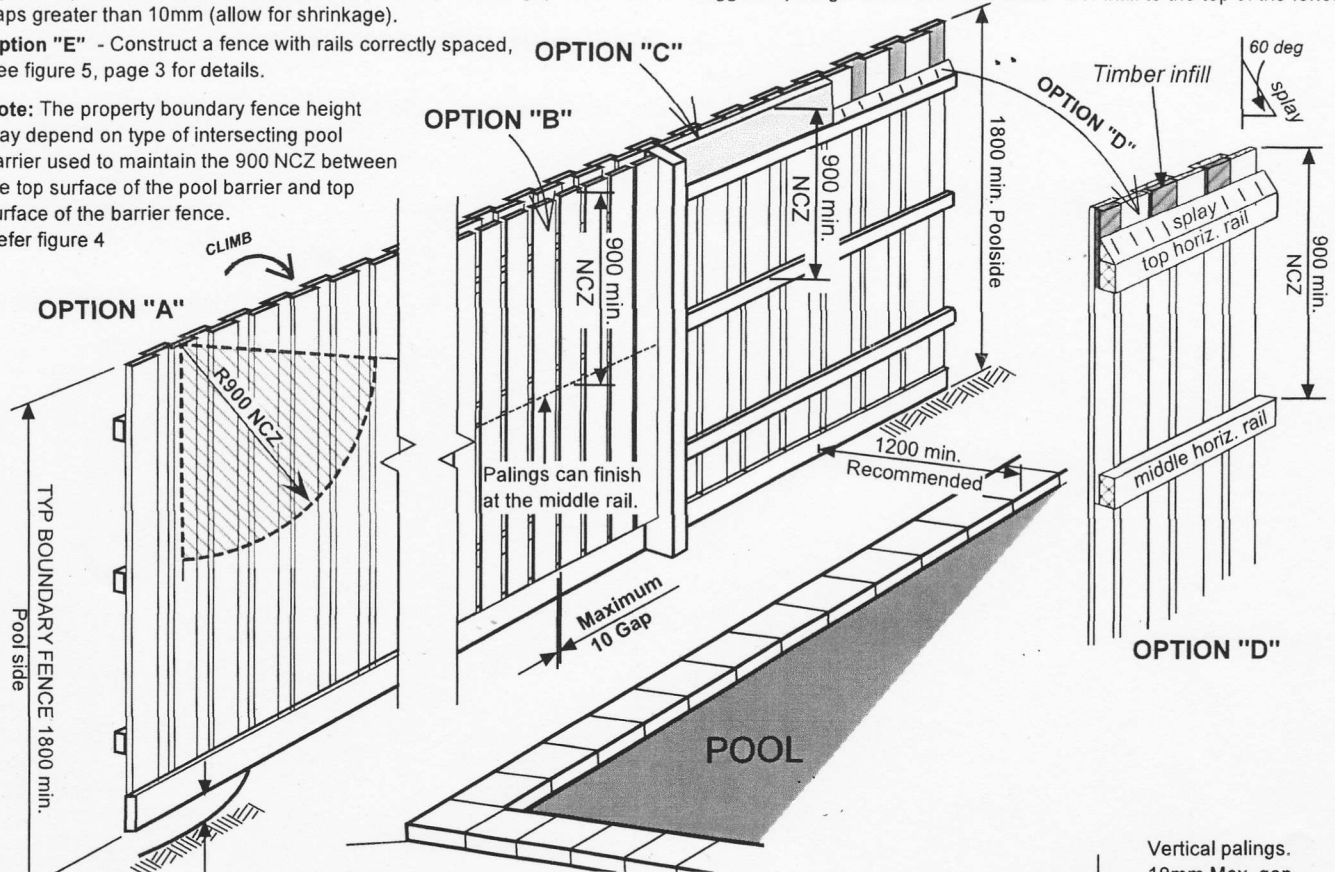


Figure 3 STANDARD BOUNDARY PALING FENCE

BOUNDARY FENCE INTERSECTING WITH POOL BARRIER:

Refer figure 4, a property boundary fence needs to be 2100 high, measured on the pool side, adjacent to an intersecting internal pool barrier, to be able to provide 900 NCZ above an intersecting internal pool barrier (tubular type shown). Protect horizontal rails on the boundary fence within 900mm on both sides of the intersecting internal pool barrier. Provide vertical palings staggered with 10mm max. gap and a 50 x 35 stiffening batten. Securely fasten with screws. Allow for shrinkage in timber.

Note - Refer figure 2a & 4, where typical swimming pool barriers intersect, the horizontal rails need only be protected for 300mm inside the pool barrier. See figure 2a for further reference.

PLEASE NOTE: This Safety Barrier Guide and Options are some examples of methods to help compliance with the Australian Standard for swimming pool safety, AS 1926.1-2007. Following this guide does not guarantee compliance nor are options limited to those shown. Please consult your Relevant Building Surveyor and the relevant standard. All fences must comply with Building Regulations. Boundary fencing is regulated by the Fencing Act 1968(VIC).

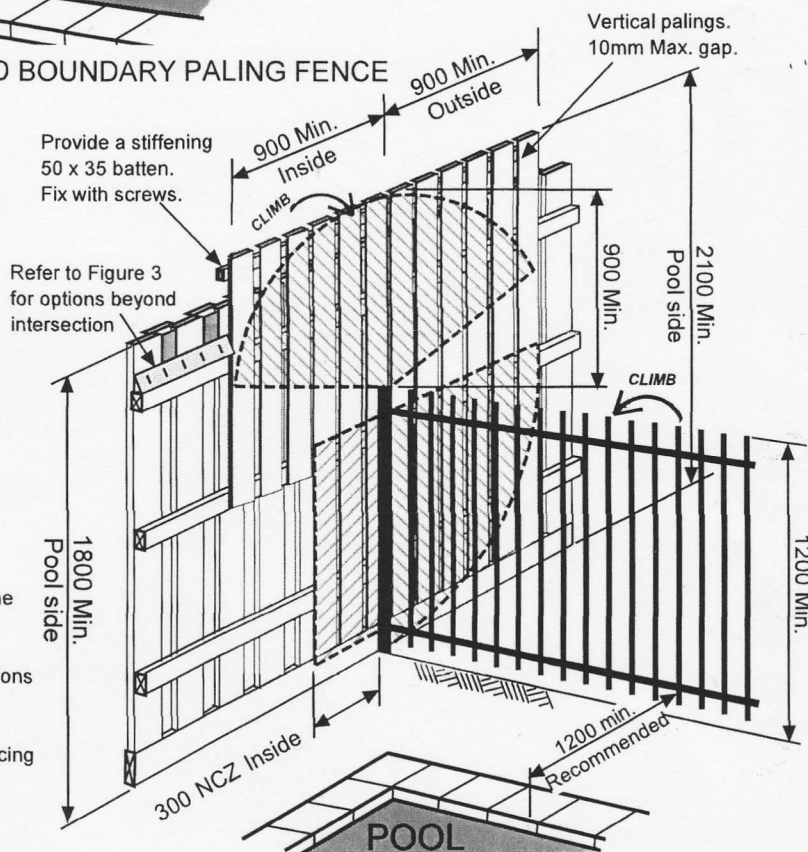


Figure 4 PROPERTY BOUNDARY FENCE INTERSECTING AN INTERNAL POOL BARRIER (Existing Fence)

= Hatched areas denotes NCZ

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Figure 6 ALTERNATIVE BOUNDARY FENCE
INTERSECTING A TYPICAL POOL BARRIER