

SWIMMING POOLS

Technical Note No: 3 Issued: July 2002

SAFETY & ACCESS

In Tasmania building permits are required and obtained from your local council for the installation of all swimming pools above and below ground where the maximum water surface area is greater than 9 metres **and** maximum water depth is greater than 300 millimetres. Swimming pools must provide child-resistant safety fencing.

Explanatory information:

The information supplied in this document applies to swimming pools with a depth of water more than 300mm and installed on allotments associated with (domestic) Class 1 buildings.

Safety fencing should consist of barriers or walls of sufficient height and designed and constructed without openings and footholds that would enable a young child to climb through or over the fence. All access doors or gates are to be fitted with child-resistant self-closing and latching devices and where incorporating an external wall of a building, any doors and openable windows to the pool area should be fitted with self-closing and latching devices that are child-resistant.

Options for the location of pool safety fencing include isolating the swimming pool from all parts of the allotment, buildings and neighboring allotments using an enclosure of safety fencing. Alternatively the pool can be isolated from other parts of the allotment, buildings and neighboring allotments utilizing the existing boundary fencing and walls of buildings on the allotment provided there is no climbing points for access on the boundary fencing or access from the building to the pool area. If access is provided from the building to the pool area any access door and window opening to the pool area must be protected with child-resistant doorsets and child-resistant openable portions of window.

Swimming pool safety fencing should be designed and constructed so as to be non-climbable by young children having regard to the height of the fence, any horizontal climbable members, openings and footholds in the fence and the operation of self-closing and latching gates.

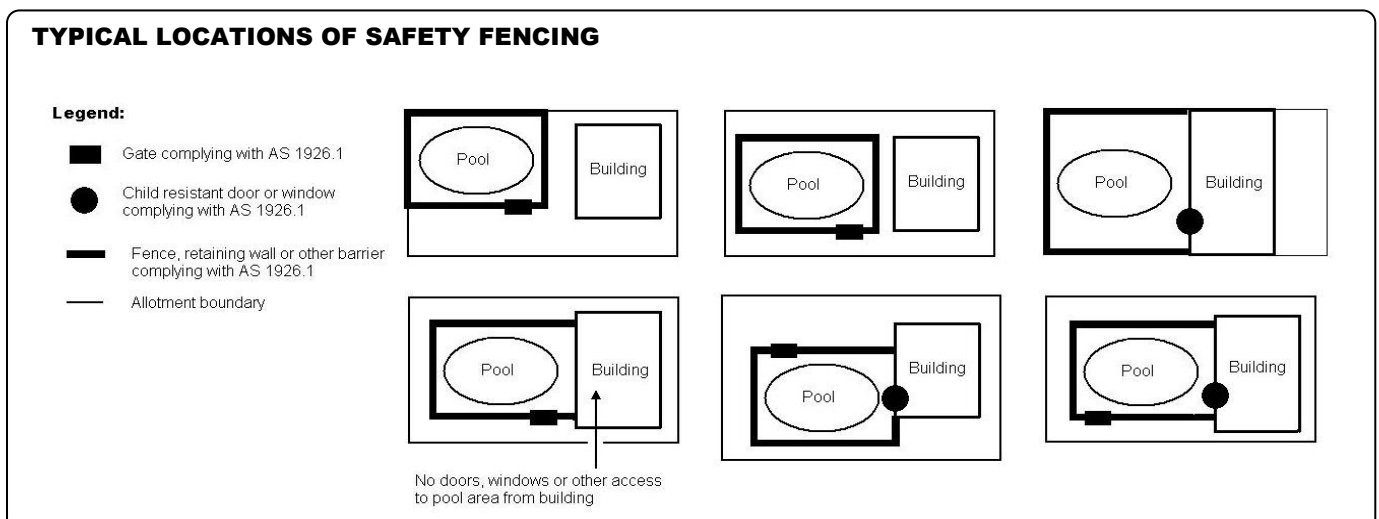
Additional requirements for swimming pools, which will effect design considerations and include provisions for drainage of swimming pools, water recirculation and inlet and outlet openings and skimmer boxes.

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY FENCING

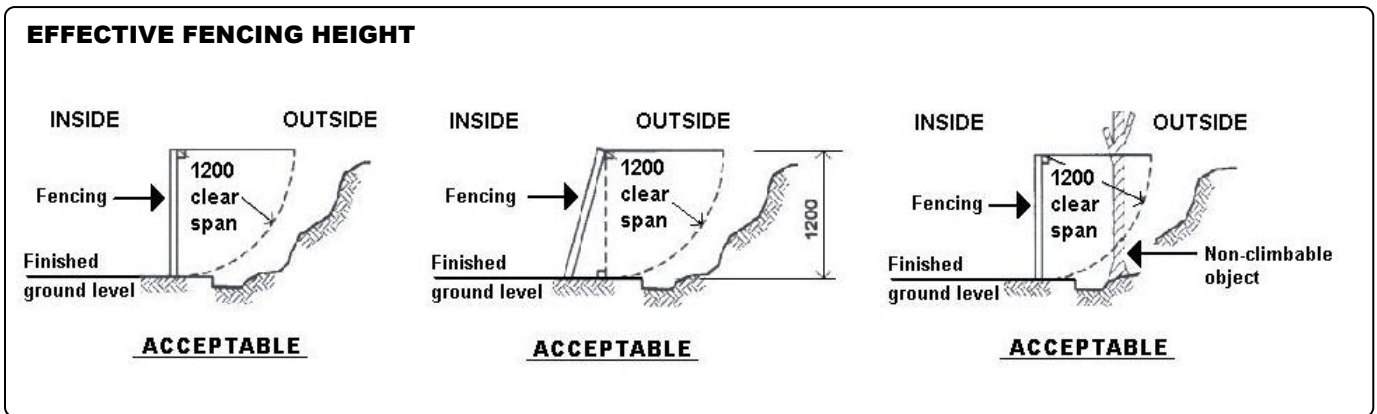
Swimming pool safety fencing is to be installed in accordance with the Building Code of Australia and Australian Standard 1926.1 – Swimming Pool Safety.

1. SAFETY FENCE LOCATION

1.1 Safety fencing must be located in accordance with one of the options shown;



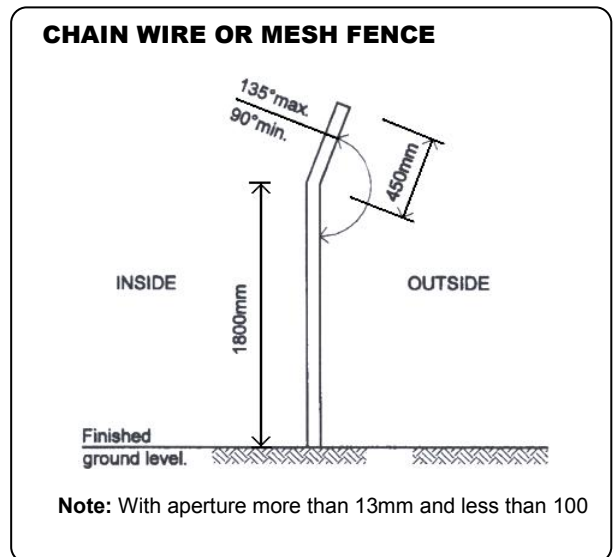
1.2 The location of safety fencing must ensure that the effective fencing height is not reduced by nearby objects or projections.



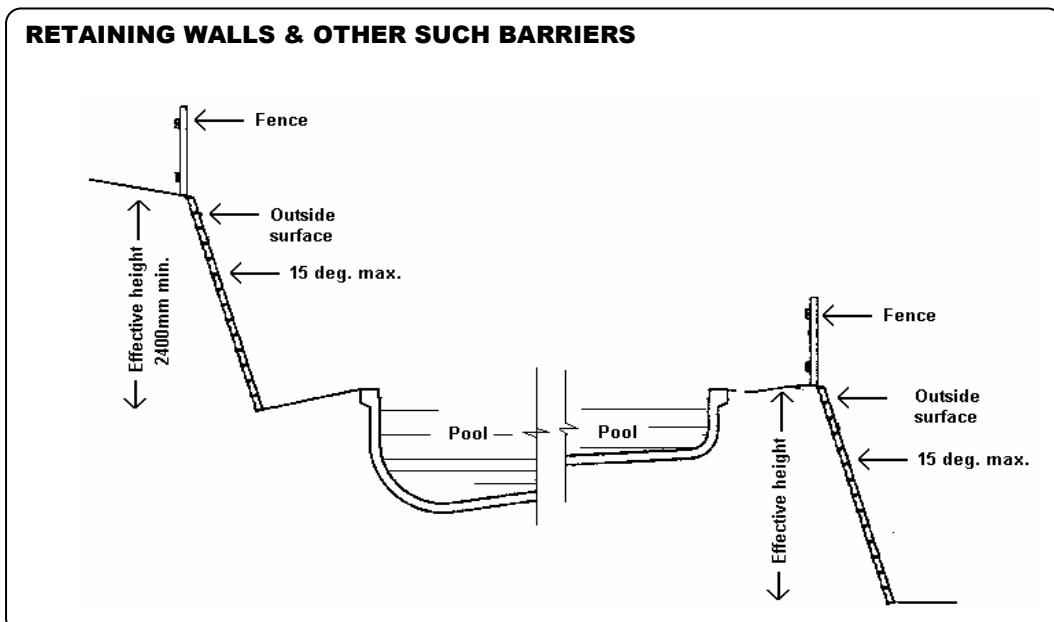
2 SAFETY FENCE CONSTRUCTION AND HEIGHT

Safety fences and gates must comply with the following:

- 2.1 The strength and rigidity of fencing components and elements must comply with AS 1926.1.
- 2.2 The effective height of fencing must be not less than 1.2 m, except for fencing constructed of perforated or mesh material with apertures more than 13 mm but less than 100 mm, in which case the effective height must be not less than that shown;

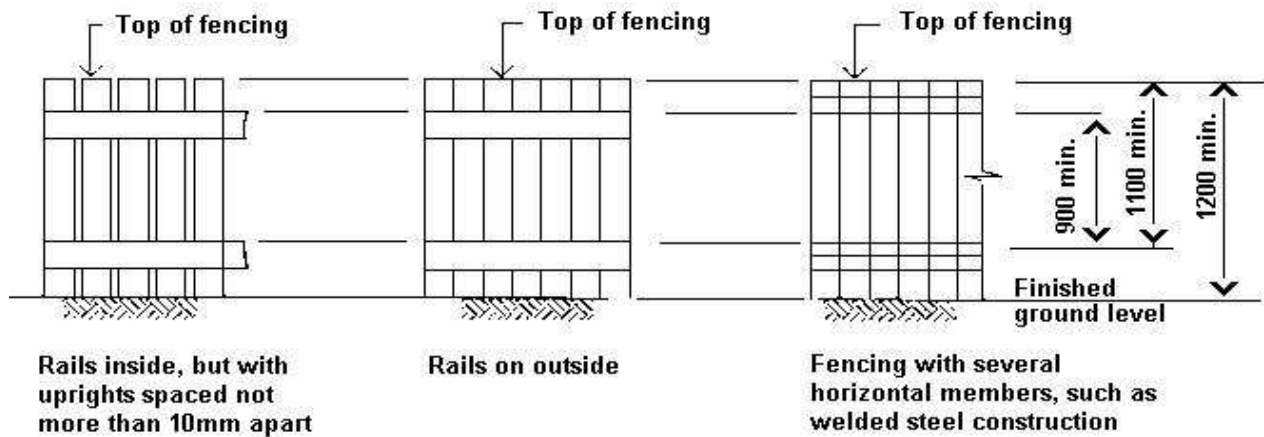
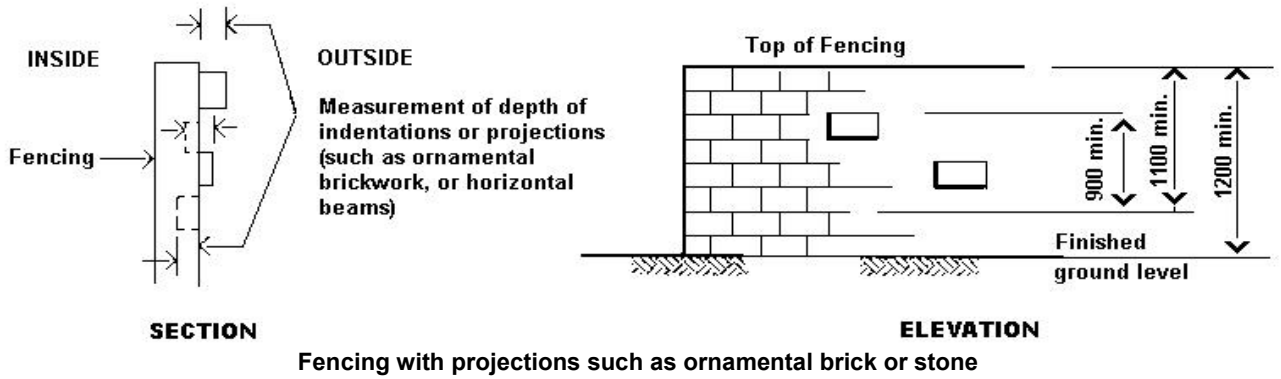


- 2.3 Retaining walls or other similar barriers, which form part of the safety fencing, must comply as shown below;

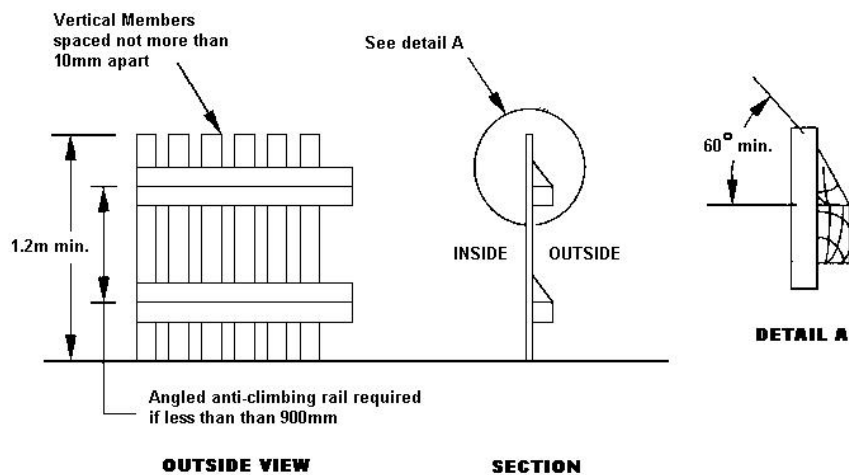


- 2.4 The clearance between the bottom of the fencing and the finished ground level must not be more than 100mm.
- 2.5 Projections or indentations on the outside surface of the fencing must not exceed the dimensions shown below.
- 2.6 Horizontal or near horizontal fencing components, such as rails, rods, wires or bracing, that could be used as holds for climbing must be located on the outside of the fencing, or if located on the inside of the fencing and the vertical members are spaced more than 10 mm apart; be spaced in accordance with the details below.
- 2.7 The clear gap between adjacent vertical or near vertical members must not be more than 100mm.

SPACING OF ACCESSIBLE HORIZONTAL MEMBERS, PROJECTIONS OR INDENTATIONS IN FENCING



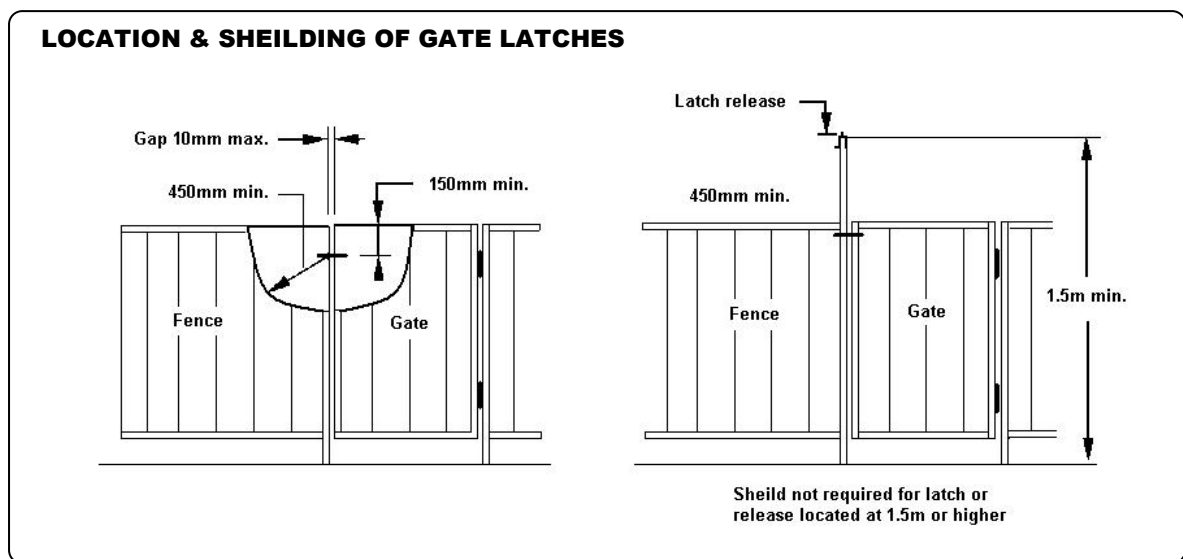
HORIZONTAL MEMBERS NOT ACTING AS A HOLD FOR CLIMBING



3. GATES AND FITTINGS

Gates and fittings must comply with the Building Code of Australia and Australian Standards 1928.1. Installation includes:

- 3.1 Gates **must swing outwards** from the pool area.
- 3.2 Gates must be fitted with a self-closing device that will return the gate to the closed position and operate the latching device from any position from resting on the latching mechanism to fully open and from a stationary start without the application of a manual force.
- 3.3 Gates must be fitted with a latching device that will automatically operate on the closing of the gate and prevent the gate from being re-opened without manual release and cannot be in advertantly adjusted in operation or adjusted without the use of tools. The locking mechanism must be located and or shielded in accordance with one of the options shown below.



WATER RECIRCULATION AND FILTRATION SYSTEM.

A water recirculation, disinfection and filtration system in a swimming pool must provide for-

1. The inlet and outlet openings for the purpose of water recirculation to be so located that water movement is continuous from inlet to outlet; and
2. The inlet and outlet openings, and skimmer boxes where provided, to comply with AS1926.3; and
3. The recirculation of water to be so designed that the pool contents are recirculated not less than once-
 - (a) in 6 hours for an outdoor *swimming pool*; or
 - (b) in 4 hours for an indoor *swimming pool*; and
4. The water filtration rates to not exceed 12 250 L/m² of sand filter bed per hour, or an equivalent rate in other filter media.

Limitation: Does not apply to a *swimming pool* associated with a (domestic) Class 1 building if the depth of water is less than 300 mm and the volume of the pool does not exceed 15 m³.