

What is defined as ‘Small Heated Pool’?

If your spa pool/hot tub:

- has a water surface area of 5 m² or less; and
- is designed for therapeutic or recreational use; and
- can hold a maximum depth of water of 400mm or more (and has any depth of water in it)

it is legally classified as a ‘Small Heated Pool’ and must have physical barriers that restrict access to it by unsupervised young children.

Is my Small Heated Pool compliant and does it need to be inspected?

Does your ‘Small Heated Pool’ meet the following criteria:

- > Top surface of every wall of the pool is at all points not less than 760mm above the adjacent floor or ground.
- > The walls of the pool inhibit climbing.
- > There are no climbable features within the 760mm radius of the top of the pool walls.

Yes, meets all criteria

- You can use a safety cover as the physical barrier that restricts access.
- Your ‘Small Heated Pool’ is not subject to triennial periodic inspections.
- You do not need to register your ‘Small Heated Pool’. However, there might be circumstances where we may ask you to complete the [Pool Notification form](#) to confirm that you comply.

No, does not meet all criteria

- You can not use a ‘Safety Cover’ as the physical barrier. An alternative physical barrier must restrict access.
- Your Small Heated Pool’s barrier must be on QLDC’s Pool Register and it is subject to triennial inspections for compliance with the Building Act 2004.
- In order to register, complete the [Pool Notification form](#).
- Please note you will need to obtain a building consent if a new barrier needs to be installed.

Is there a fee for registration and inspections?

It is free to register your pool, however charges apply to inspections. See our [Fees List](#) for more detail.

What is a 'Safety Cover'?

For a cover to be deemed a 'safety cover', it must:

- Restrict the entry of children when closed (i.e. held in place with straps fitted with lockable snap fasteners or metal padlocks).
- Be able to withstand a reasonably foreseeable load (i.e. capable of supporting a vertical point load of 20kg).
- Be able to be readily returned to the closed position.
- Must have signage indicating its child safety features (i.e. signage that states 'WARNING: This spa pool cover must be kept locked except when under adult supervision' fixed on two opposite sides of the cover).

I can not use a 'Safety Cover' to restrict access to my Small Heated Pool. What are the requirements for my alternative barrier?

The barrier that restricts access to your Small Heated Pool must achieve the Performance Criteria of New Zealand Building Code (NZBC) Clause F9 (Restricting Access to Residential Pools). Please see the MBIE website for Acceptable Solutions (F9/AS1) to comply with this clause: [F9 Restricting access to residential pools](#).

Please note F9/AS1 is not the only way in which you can achieve compliance with the Performance Criteria of F9, but a Territorial Authority (QLDC) must accept a barrier constructed in accordance with F9/AS1 as achieving the Performance Criteria of F9.

If you would like to use an alternative solution to comply with F9 (i.e. have a barrier that is not in accordance with MBIE's F9/AS1) you are entitled to do so but you will need to demonstrate to us how you are achieving the Performance Criteria of F9.

Who can I contact for any questions?

If you have further queries or would like to speak with someone about meeting your obligations, you can email swimmingpools@qldc.govt.nz or call the building line: 03 450 0369.

Please also see our website for further information: [QLDC Residential swimming and spa pools](#).