



SAFETY BARRIERS FOR SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS

PROTECTION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

In 1992 the State Government established standards for pool security which require Local Authorities to inspect all private swimming pools and spas upon installation. Inspections are to be repeated at least once every 4 years. The Shire of Coolgardie supports the Government the Governments initiatives in attempting to reduce the number of child drowning in this area, and complies with Government requirements by conducting pool security inspections.

- All new pools must have isolated fencing. Therefore doors or windows can not form part of the access to the pool.
- All swimming pool fences must comply with Australian Standard 1926.1

Drowning is the biggest cause of death among children under 5 years of age, causing 3 out of 4 deaths in Australia in this age group. These occur mainly in private swimming pools.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF POOL SAFETY

- Safety barriers are required to restrict access to private swimming pools by children from both outside the property and within the property.
- Barriers may include fences, gates and in some cases, with council approval, modified windows.
- Responsibility for the security of the pool is placed on the property owner or the occupier.
- The Shire is required to check safety barriers when the pool is installed and to reinspect thereafter at least once every four year period.

ISOLATION FENCES AND GATES

- Pool access gates must be at least 1.2 metres high, must not swing inwards towards the pool, must have a closer that will make the gate shut from any position, must have a latch release at least 1.5 metres above the outside ground surface.
- An isolation fence must comply with the same structural details as complying boundary fences, minimum of 1.2 metres high, maximum spaces between vertical members of 100mm, maximum space under the fence of 100mm, and ground will need to be permanently stabilised.
- All fences and gates must not have ant rails or other non-vertical parts closer together than 900mm.

- All climbable plants, shrubs growing on the pool fence must not provide access to the pool.
- Pool must not be fully surrounded by complying barriers. Boundary fences may be used provided they can not be climbed by young children.

SWIMMING POOL BLANKETS

The Western Australian Governments new 5 Star Plus standards commenced on 1 September 2007. As a result of these new standards all new swimming pools will require a pool cover to reduce evaporation.

These covers need to be accredited under the smart approved Watermark Scheme governed by the Australian Water Association, the Irrigation Association, the Nursery and Garden Industry Australia and the Water Services Association of Australia.

BUILDING LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

A building licence is required prior to the construction of any swimming pool/spa that will contain more than 300mm (30cm) depth in water.

An application to the Shire for a swimming pool/spa must be accompanied by:

- Application form
- Site Plan – Two copies drawn to scale of not less than 1:200 indicating site boundaries, existing and proposed levels and proposed pool/spa location
- Specification Construction details showing materials to be used and respective sizes
- Application fees (see below)

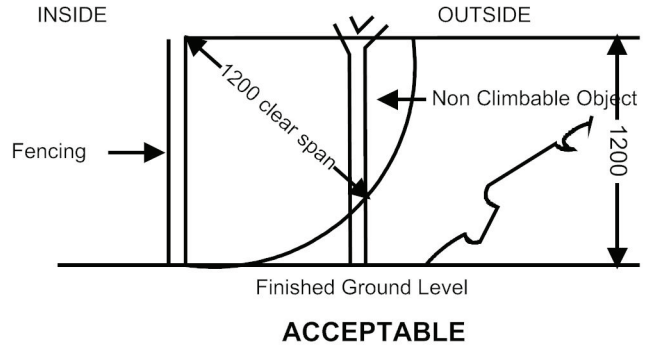
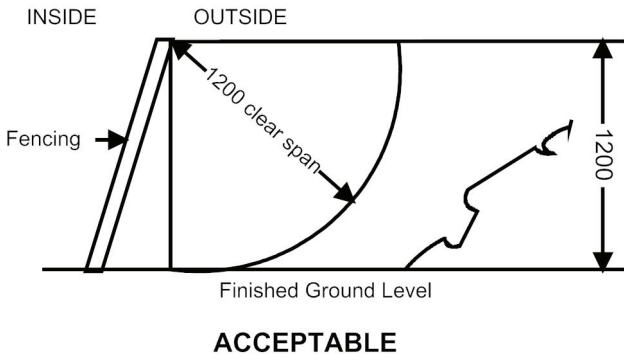
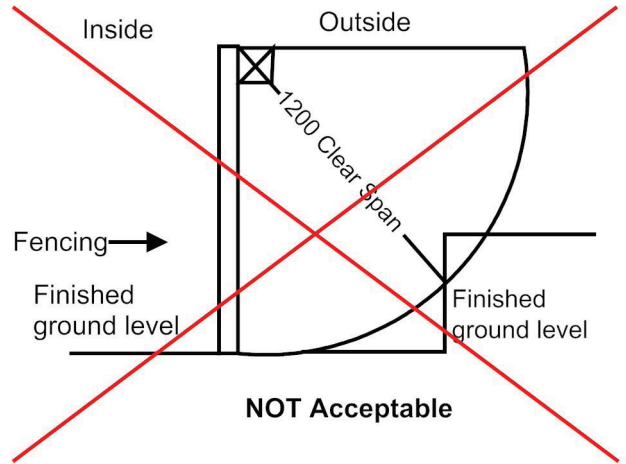
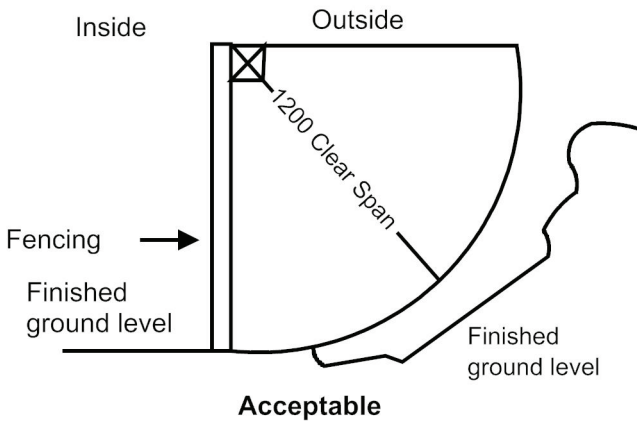
BUILDING APPLICATION FEE'S

To find current building fees please view Councils Fees and Charges document on our website.

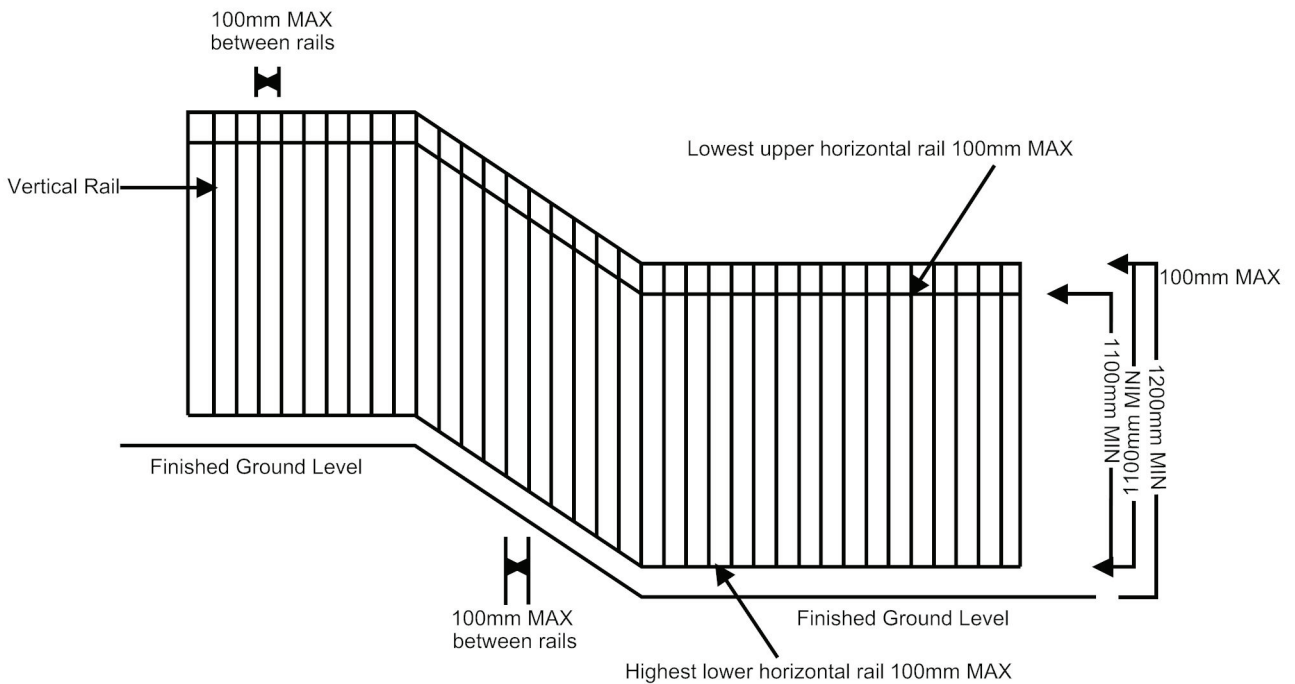
Building Services Levy and Construction Training Fund Levy are statutory charges and can be paid directly to those organizations. Fees must be paid before a permit will be issued

*See BRB website (www.builders.wa.gov.au)

Pool Fencing Diagrams



EFFECTIVE FENCING HEIGHT



PERPENDICULAR FENCING DIMENSIONS ON SLOPING GROUND

Diagram in Millimeters