

Replace your child-resistant door/s with a safer alternative

While active adult supervision is the primary factor in preventing young children from drowning, safety barriers provide a valuable secondary measure. However, some safety barriers are safer than others.

Child-resistant doors are generally not considered to be as safe as isolation fencing. Child-resistant doors can be difficult to maintain and are one of the most common items identified as being non-compliant by local government safety barrier inspectors.

The Ombudsman Western Australia, in their report Investigation into ways to prevent or reduce deaths of children by drowning, recommended considering the removal of the concession that permits pre-November 2001 swimming and spa pools to use child-resistant doors as part of their safety barrier.

At this stage, owners of pre-November 2001 swimming or spa pools that use child-resistant doors can continue to use them to comply with the safety barrier requirements; however, are encouraged to exercise caution due to the additional risk involved with this type of safety barrier.

Wherever possible child-resistant doors should not be used as part of a safety barrier. Owners of existing swimming or spa pools that include child-resistant doors as part of their safety barrier are encouraged to consider alternatives.

Further information on safety barriers, including the Ombudsman's report and Building and Energy's Decision Paper, is available at www.demirs.wa.gov.au/rules-for-pools.



Disclaimer – The information contained in this fact sheet is provided as general information and a guide only. It should not be relied upon as legal advice or as an accurate statement of the relevant legislation provisions. If you are uncertain as to your legal obligations, you should obtain independent legal advice.

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