

Swimming pool safety fencing (NSW)



In New South Wales, Swimming Pool Safety Fencing for residential buildings is not controlled by the Building Code of Australia (BCA). It is regulated by the *Swimming Pools Act 1992* and the *Swimming Pools Regulation 1998*. These regulations are administered by NSW local councils.

What does that mean?

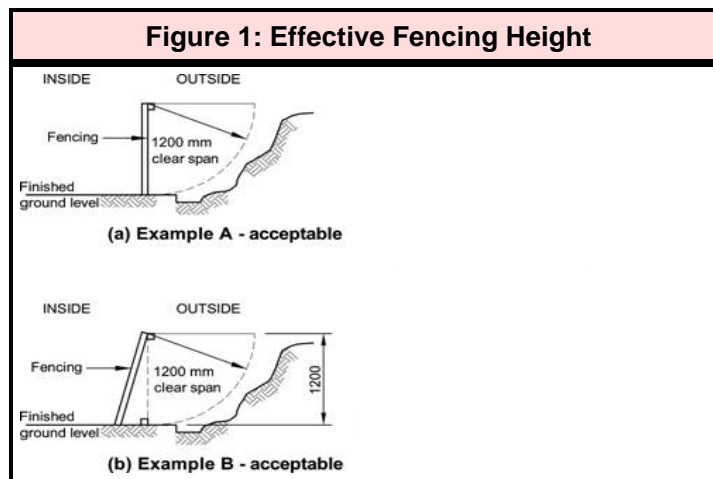
In NSW, swimming pool safety fencing requirements are different to the rest of Australia. The *NSW Swimming Pool Regulation 1998* calls up Australian Standard AS 1926 - 1986 to determine the requirements for swimming pool safety fencing within NSW, and not the more recent version of AS 1926 - 1993 which is referenced by the BCA.

Note - The recently released AS 1926 - 2007 is not yet a referenced Australian Standard by either the BCA or NSW regulations.

Australian Standard AS 1926-1986 provisions

Swimming pool safety fences and gates must be of a permanent nature. All construction materials concerned with the safety aspects of the fencing (including shielding of the latching mechanism) must be of a durable nature and be satisfactory for their intended purpose under prevailing site conditions such as likely weather conditions, pool chemicals, atmospheric pollution, decay, insects, ground water, salt spray, and the like.

Fences and gates must have an effective perpendicular height of 1200mm at any point along its length, on the outside of the fencing. The height is considered effective if a quadrant of radius 1200mm (see Figure 1) provides a clear span of 1200mm to finished ground level. The fence must be either vertical or leaning away from the pool (see Figure 1).

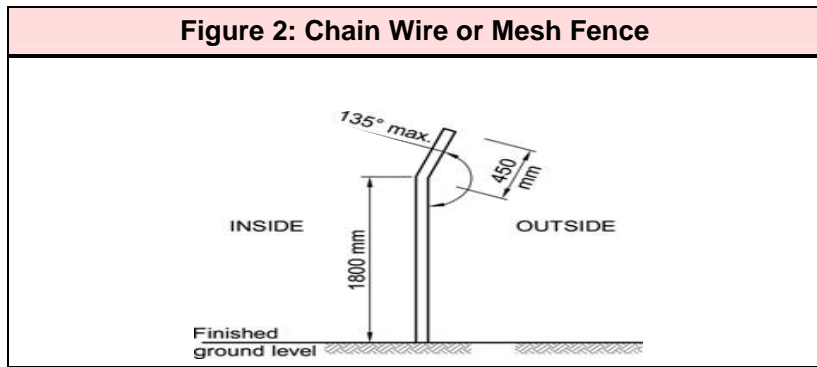


Perforated materials or mesh such as chain wire may be used provided that mesh openings are not greater than 50mm nominal and the effective height must be at least 1800mm topped with an angled section of 450mm inclined to the outside at an angle of 135 degrees from the vertical (see Figure 2).

The clearance (gap) between the bottom of the fence to the top of the finished ground level must not exceed 100mm.

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The above is intended to provide general information in summary form. The contents do not constitute specific advice and should not be relied upon as such. Formal specific advice should be sought by members with respect to particular matters before taking action. ABN 99 004 631 752



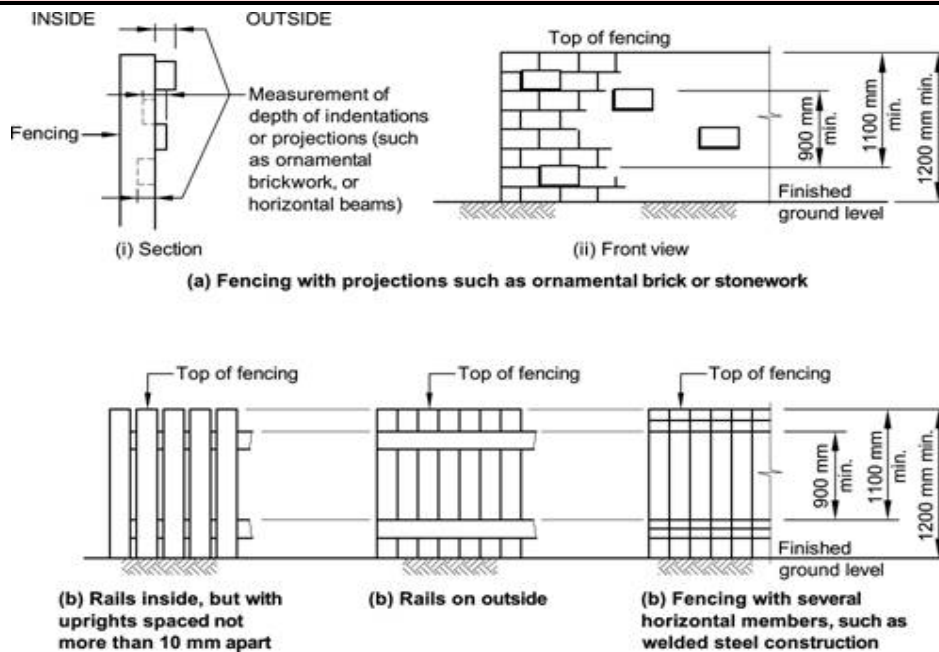
Horizontal members must be at least 900mm apart. Where there are two or more horizontal members, this measurement must be made from the top surface of the highest lower member to the bottom surface of the lowest upper member (see Figure 3).

Where the ground slopes, the distance between the top surface of the highest lower member and bottom surface of the lowest upper member must not be less than 900mm, when measured perpendicular to the finished ground level. The top surface of the highest lower member shall be at least 1100mm below the top of the fence or gate.

Any nearby horizontal surfaces permanently located near the inside of the fencing must be separated from the fencing by a distance of at least 300mm.

The spacing between adjacent vertical members, such as palings, rods or wires must not exceed 100mm at any point.

Figure 3: Spacing of accessible horizontal members, projections or indentations in fencing



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For further information:
HIA members can contact HIA Building Services staff on 1300 650 620

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information sheet