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# Inflatable swimming pools

## Safety guidelines for consumers

Although inflatable swimming pools can be a great source of fun, especially for small children, there are hazards associated with these products that you must be aware of:

- Toddlers can drown in very shallow water.
- Children can become ill when pool water is left unsanitised for long periods of time.
- Electrocutation is a very real threat when portable electrical pumps and filter systems are not used properly.

## Read the labels

The labels on inflatable pools warn pool owners, parents and carers of the potential for drowning, the need for water purification and the possible requirements of child-resistant safety barrier. For your family's safety, make sure you read the labels.

## Fencing requirements

Owners of premises with swimming pools must ensure their pools comply with fencing laws. These state that pools able to be filled to 300mm or more in depth must be surrounded by a safety barrier separating the swimming pool from any residential building and any place adjoining the premises.

Fences surrounding pools must be designed, constructed, installed and maintained to comply with Australian standards for swimming pools. Contact your local council for further details.

## Electrical hazards

Pools and electricity can be a lethal combination. Be very careful with swimming pools that have portable electrical pumps and filter systems. Unlike pumps and filters for in-ground pools, there is no protective housing for these products.

When buying pools with electrical pumps and filters you should:

- make sure the pump and filter have an electrical safety approval number or Regulatory Compliance Mark
- check they are suitable for outdoor use
- fit a safety switch to the house where the pool will be used
- arrange for a licensed electrician to install a suitable weather-protected electrical power point close to where the pool equipment will be located to avoid the use of extension cords.

If it is necessary to use flexible extension cords:

- only use heavy duty cords and always roll them up and store them overnight or when not in use
- do not join a number of extension cords together – purchase a single cord of the required length
- make sure the extension cords are not damaged by people walking or driving over them or by pets chewing on them
- ALWAYS remove the extension cords prior to mowing any lawn area near the pool.

## Warning labels

Owners and purchasers of inflatable swimming pools should observe any warning labels attached to the packaging and the product. The information supplied on the warning label can vary according to the height of the pool.

### Small inflatable pools under 300mm in height

Inflatable pools under 300mm in height should carry the following warning labels:

- Pool owners, parents and carers need to be aware of the potential for drowning even in shallow water. You should ALWAYS SUPERVISE CHILDREN when they are using these products.
- Ensure that the water is kept pure. Water left in inflatable pools for periods of time can become contaminated and cause illness.
- Empty the pool and store it safely (away from young children) when it is not in use.

### Large inflatable pools 300mm or more in height

Inflatable pools 300mm or more in height should carry the following warning labels:

- the same three warnings as for smaller pools (see above) and
- Pool fencing laws affect this product. Before you buy this pool you should consult your local council.

**NOTE – For large inflatable pools of 300mm or more in height** consult your council on fencing requirements, child-resistant barriers and a warning sign display.