

Portable swimming and spa pools - fixed fee (\$300) building consent process

This fixed fee process has been introduced to encourage families buying portable swimming and spa pools to apply for a building consent and ensure pools are fenced and in compliance with the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987 (FOSPA).

All pools that contain more than 400mm of water, which are used for wading or swimming, are required to be fenced in accordance with the FOSPA. The sole purpose of this is to protect young children under the age of six from drowning.

Sadly, every year we see children drowned or injured in unfenced pools. The council wishes to do everything it can to assist people obtain the necessary approval. Offering this fixed fee process is one way of achieving this goal.

This process only applies to above-ground ring-fenced pools or spa pools and excludes:

- sites with geotechnical or contamination issues
- sites with public drains under or within 2 meters of the pool foundations
- climbing points within 1.2m of the pool fence
- in-ground pools
- infinity edge pools; or
- any pool fencing for which an exemption of the FOSPA has been requested

Notes:

1. A ring-fenced pool is one that is totally ring-fenced by approved fencing materials and does not include boundary fencing or buildings that form part of the fencing. Such pools must go through the normal consent process.
2. Above ground pools with a height 1.2m above ground still require a building consent but do not need to be fenced under FOSPA and may also be included in this fast track process.



If a **Resource Consent** is required, the council will exercise discretion and consider a fast-track process if the pool is:-

1. located to the rear of the property and is not visible from the road or any public open space
2. not connected to a combined sewer
3. boundary screen fencing higher than the pool is provided in conjunction with the pool fencing
4. not located on land which is subject to soil and flood hazards
5. not requiring protected vegetation to be removed
6. not in association with any other requirements for resource consents that is not a direct result of the proposal
7. not involving any earthworks other than the removal of vegetation immediately under the pool platform

The council will assess applications on a case by case basis and reserves the right to determine any application to follow the normal resource consenting process regardless whether it meets all the above criteria. The fast-track fixed fee does not include fees and charges for the resource consent application.