Pool Safety Checklist

A residential pool-owner walkthrough for access barriers, supervision, visible hazards and emergency readiness. Repeat before swimming and secure the pool after use. This checklist records checks; it does not certify safety or replace continuous supervision, local requirements or professional inspection.

Date / time: _____ Checked by: _____ Issues / follow-up owner: _____

Before you start

- Walk around the pool from the deck. Never enter the water, remove a drain cover or open electrical equipment to complete a check.
- If a gate, barrier, drain cover or other safety feature is faulty, keep people out and arrange appropriate repair. N/A applies only when the stated feature is absent; it never excuses a fault.
- Use local requirements and manufacturer instructions for your installation. US CPSC guidance informs this list; it is not a universal building-code checklist. Completion never replaces active adult supervision.

Check access barriers

- [ ] **Inspect the pool barrier and clear climbing aids (Essential)**

  Walk the perimeter for visible gaps, loose sections or damage. Move furniture and other climbing aids away. Restrict access and arrange repair if the barrier is compromised.

- [ ] **Test gate self-closing and latching (Essential)**

  Check that each gate closes and latches as its manufacturer specifies. Never prop it open. Keep the pool inaccessible if it fails.

- [ ] **Test installed door and pool alarms (If Applicable)**

  If door or pool alarms are installed.

  Test alarms according to their instructions and address faults. An alarm adds protection; it does not replace barriers or a supervising adult.

- [ ] **Check the safety cover and its controls (If Applicable)**

  If a safety cover is installed.

  Check visible condition and operation according to the manual. Keep controls away from children. A floating or seasonal cover is not automatically a safety cover; never walk on a cover.

- [ ] **Secure above-ground pool access after use (If Applicable)**

  If the pool has removable or lockable above-ground access steps or ladders.

  When swimming ends, secure, lock or remove access steps or ladders as the installation allows. Keep access controlled whenever no adult is supervising.

Prepare people and emergency equipment

- [ ] **Assign an undistracted adult Water Watcher (Essential)**

  Agree who is actively watching and explicitly hand over responsibility before that adult leaves. Keep young children and weak swimmers within appropriate close supervision; swim lessons and alarms do not remove the need to watch.

- [ ] **Review swimming abilities and pool rules (Essential)**

  Discuss each swimmer's abilities, supervision needs and safe use of the pool. Keep children away from drains; do not permit breath-holding contests or diving where the pool is not designed for it.

- [ ] **Keep a working phone and the pool address accessible (Essential)**

  Make sure the supervising adult can call emergency services immediately and give the exact location. Know how responders can reach the pool.

- [ ] **Locate suitable rescue equipment (Essential)**

  Keep appropriate reaching or throwing equipment accessible and know its use. In an emergency call for help; do not enter the water for a rescue beyond your training.

- [ ] **Review the emergency plan and CPR readiness (Essential)**

  Identify adults with current CPR training and arrange training or renewal where needed. Review who calls emergency services and follows dispatcher instructions; this checklist does not teach rescue or CPR.

Check visible hazards before swimming

- [ ] **Check visible drain-cover condition from the deck (Essential)**

  Keep everyone out if a suction-outlet cover is loose, broken or missing. If its condition cannot be assessed safely, arrange professional inspection. Never remove a cover or enter the water to check it.

- [ ] **Confirm clear underwater visibility (Essential)**

  Do not swim if cloudy water prevents a clear view of the bottom. Resolve the cause before use. Clear-looking water alone does not confirm suitable sanitizer or pH.

- [ ] **Check current sanitizer and pH results (Essential)**

  Confirm recent water tests meet applicable guidance and product requirements. Follow treatment-label waiting times and retest instructions. Use the weekly maintenance checklist for the detailed testing routine.

- [ ] **Check walking surfaces, handholds and visible equipment hazards (Essential)**

  Clear trip hazards and check visible steps and handholds for damage. Keep electrical appliances and cords away from the water. Stop use and obtain qualified help for damaged wiring or equipment; do not attempt electrical repairs.

Secure the pool after use

- [ ] **Secure pool chemicals and maintenance supplies (If Applicable)**

  If pool chemicals or maintenance supplies are stored on site.

  Store chemicals in their original labelled containers in a secure area according to product instructions, inaccessible to children and pets. Never mix chemicals.

- [ ] **Remove toys and restore controlled access (Essential)**

  Remove enticing toys from the pool area when not in use, check everyone is out, and close and latch gates. Restore installed covers and alarms according to their instructions; secure above-ground access where applicable.

Notes / additional tasks

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