

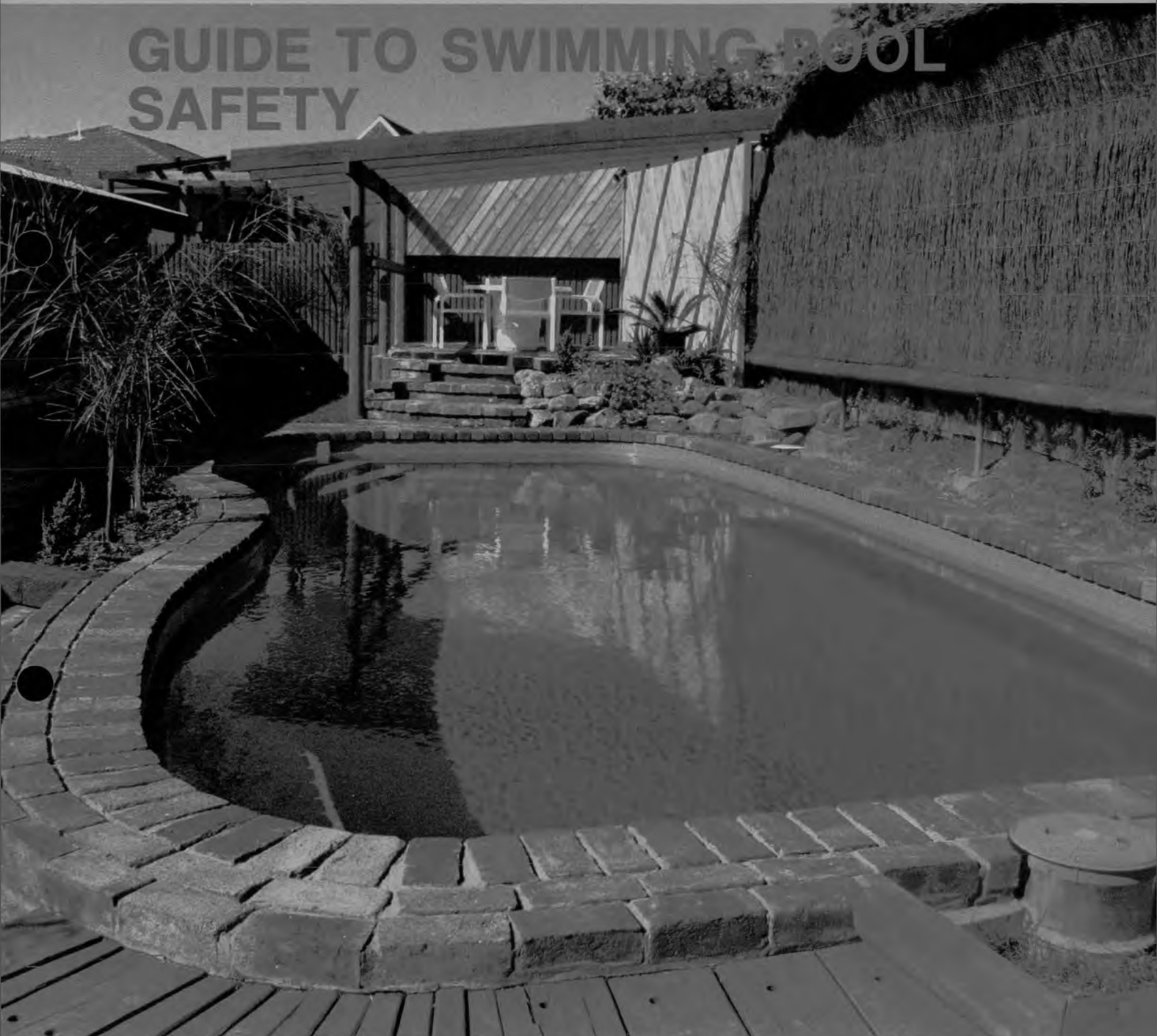
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AS 2818

AS 2818—1985  
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# Australian Standard® 2818—1985

## GUIDE TO SWIMMING POOL SAFETY



**STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**  
*Incorporated by Royal Charter*

This Australian standard was prepared by Committee CS/34, Safety of Private Swimming Pools. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 16 July 1985 and published on 6 September 1985.

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The following interests are represented on Committee CS/34:

Citizens Private Swimming Pool Safety Committee  
Confederation of Australian Industry  
Consumer Affairs Bureau, Qld  
Council of Australasian Spa and Pool Associations Limited  
Department of Consumer Affairs, N.S.W.  
Department of Health, N.S.W.  
Department of Local Government, W.A.  
Department of Sport and Recreation, N.S.W.  
Local Government Association of N.S.W.  
Municipal Association of Victoria  
National Safety Council of Australia (N.S.W. Division)  
National Safety Council of Australia (S.A. Division)  
Royal Australian Institute of Architects  
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Supersedes DR 84096

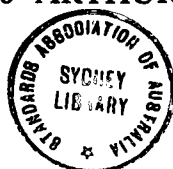
**AUSTRALIAN STANDARD**

# **GUIDE TO SWIMMING POOL SAFETY**

**AS 2818—1985**

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## PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Safety of Private Swimming Pools. It supersedes SAA MP33—1980, SAA Guide to Swimming Pool Safety.

The proposal for SAA MP33 arose out of the work of the SAA committee responsible for the preparation of the first edition (1976) of AS 1926, Fences and Gates for Private Swimming Pools. It was felt that there were several highly desirable recommendations regarding pool safety which were not appropriate for inclusion in a fencing specification, but which should form the basis of a separate document.

The former recommended minimum dimensions for pools where diving equipment is used are not included in this standard. It is proposed that these will be included in a new standard\* that is being prepared by Committee CS/34.

\* Tentatively titled Safety Requirements for Private Swimming Pools.

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**STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

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**Australian Standard**  
**GUIDE TO SWIMMING POOL SAFETY**

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**FOREWORD**

The effectiveness of any installed safety measures is dependent on their proper use or observance by the pool user.

The information and recommendations in this guide are intended to provide advice to pool users in the interest of pool safety. It is intended that the pool owner, having regard to such considerations as the ages of his or her children, the layout of the house and land, etc, should determine which recommendations are appropriate for a particular situation.

Because a significant majority of the victims of drownings in private pools are children under the age of five years, this guide is primarily aimed at providing recommendations for the protection of children of this age group. The guide also includes, however, recommendations on other aspects of pool safety which may relate to persons of all ages. The recommendations set out are mainly concerned with preventive safety rather than first-aid measures, which are already well established and widely publicized.

## GUIDE

**1 SCOPE.** This standard provides guidance on the prevention of accidental drownings and injuries in private swimming pools and spas and identifies potential hazards in the use and maintenance of private swimming pools.

It does not encompass design features which are covered by separate standards for private spas and swimming pools.

**2 APPLICATION.** This standard is applicable to swimming pools and spas which are located outside buildings on residential properties such as private homes, flats, home units, and on other properties such as schools, motels, hospitals, institutions, and the like.

**3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.** The following standards are referred to in this standard:

AS 1926	Fences and Gates for Private Swimming Pools
AS 2610	Spa Pools Part 2—Private Spas
AS 3000	SAA Wiring Rules
AS XXXX DE 285285	Safety Requirements for Private Swimming Pools*
AS YYYY	Sanitization of Private Swimming Pools*
Attention is drawn to the following related standards:	
AS 1838	Premoulded Reinforced Plastics Swimming Pools
AS 1839	Code of Practice for In-ground Installation of Premoulded Reinforced Plastics Swimming Pools
AS 2020	Safety Covers for Private Swimming Pools and Wading Pools (For the Protection of Children 5 Years of Age and Under)
AS 2160	Contract for Supply and Construction of a Swimming Pool
AS 2233	Safety Ladders for Above-ground Swimming Pools
AS 2783	Concrete Swimming Pools

**4 DEFINITIONS.** For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions apply:

*Swimming pool*—any structure capable of being filled with water to a depth greater than 300 mm and primarily intended to be used for swimming, wading or paddling.

*Spa*—a water-retaining structure with a capacity of not less than 680 L with which is associated the facility for heating the water contained in it and injecting air bubbles or jets of turbulent water.

*Splasher (wading) pool*—any structure capable of being filled with water to a depth not greater than 300 mm and intended to be used by young children.

*Young child*—a child under the age of five years.

**5 RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPERVISION.** It is emphasized that supervision by an adult is essential whenever young children are near a pool.

Parents should be aware that young children cannot understand concepts such as safety, danger, drowning and death. Also, they forget quickly, thus constant training and practice are necessary to maintain awareness and competence.

Even though a young child has been taught to float and swim, vigilance and supervision should not be relaxed. The child's ability may be affected by cold water, shock or a combination of these, which may lead to drowning.

Drownings of young children typically have two features: silence and speed. There is seldom a splash or a call for help when the child falls in and the child's involuntary actions turn him or her face-down once in the water. Within as little as 30 seconds the child can become unconscious.

**The need for constant supervision cannot be over-emphasized.**

**6 LEGAL LIABILITY.** Swimming pool owners should be aware that where death or injury to any person occurs in their pool then a legal liability may fall upon them or upon the person responsible for the pool at the time of such incident.

## 7 POOL FENCING.

**7.1 General.** A fence is an effective means of restricting young children from gaining access to a pool. The location of the pool fence should comply with any requirements of the local council or State government and the fence and gate should comply with AS 1926.

The type of fence and the location of the pool within the fenced area should permit viewing through or over the fence so that the pool area may be viewed from commonly used areas of the house or yard, etc.

It is recommended that the distance of fencing from the pool should take into consideration a safety margin sufficient to discourage diving and jumping from the fence into the pool. The fence should not be located so close to the pool as to discourage adults from making use of the area within the fence while supervising children in the pool.

The fence should be located clear of any overhanging projections such as tree branches, a garage roof, etc, which could be used as a means of access over the fence. Steeply sloping sites may require special consideration.

**7.2 Examples of location of pool fencing** (see Figs 1 to 4). The following examples of the location of pool fencing are given as a guide to pool owners to assist them in determining which option is best suited to their present and possible future needs. The location of the fence should be related to the need for protection. Most drowning victims in private pools are under the age of five years, and are residents or invited visitors.

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\* In course of preparation.