

Translated from the original French version dated 2022-07-28 and available here: <https://www.mamh.gouv.qc.ca/ministere/securite-des-piscines-residentielles/mesures-de-securite/>

## Safety of residential swimming pools

- Context
- Amendments to the regulation
- How the new rules will be applied
- Residential Swimming Pool Safety Regulation application guide
- Frequently asked questions
- Communication kit

On July 28, 2022, the Residential Pool Safety Regulation was amended to [extend the date for compliance](#) to September 30, 2025 for pools installed before November 1, 2010.

### Context

Residential swimming pools, whether aboveground, inground, or even portable (dismountable), pose a significant drowning risk to young children, particularly when they are away from adult supervision and the installations are not properly secured.

Adopted in 2010, the [Residential Swimming Pool Safety Regulation](#) is essentially aimed at controlling access to residential swimming pools by young children through simple measures such as the installation of an enclosure with a safety gate. It provides that a municipal permit is required for work related to the construction of a pool and its installations, such as a deck, a platform, or an enclosure.

### Amendments to the Regulation

The following amendments to the Regulation entered into force on July 1, 2021. In addition, a subsequent amendment came into effect on July 28, 2022.

### End of grandfathering for pools built before November 1, 2010

In response to a recommendation made by a number of coroners in recent years, the Regulation has been amended and will now apply to all pools, regardless of when they were installed.

It should be recalled that owners of pools built before November 1, 2010 were originally exempted. They did not have to comply with the protective measures of the Regulation. From now on, they will have to.

Considering the costs associated with the installation of an enclosure, particularly for inground and semi-inground pools, an additional delay has been granted to the owners concerned to bring their yard up to standard, which must be completed by September 30, 2025.

## **New rule for swimming pools equipped with a diving board**

---

To reduce the risk of injury from diving accidents, any new pool equipped with a diving board must comply with [BNQ 9461-100](#). This standard specifies the minimum features necessary to provide a safe environment for diving in a residential pool. It also requires that site and construction plans be prepared for any residential pool equipped with a diving board.

This new standard applies only to pools and diving boards acquired and installed since July 1, 2021. It should be noted that it does not apply to pools and diving boards acquired before that date and installed between July 1 and September 30, 2021. This three-month delay is intended to take into account installation contracts signed before the entry into force of the Regulation and for which the work will be carried out during the summer.

## **New rules on access control**

---

The Regulation has been amended to improve the safety of installations around swimming pools.

Since July 1, 2021

- chain link fences with a width of more than 30 mm must be slatted.
- no structure or stationary equipment that can be used to climb over a pool wall or enclosure shall be installed within 1 m of said wall or enclosure.
- no opening shall be located within 1 m of a swimming pool or an enclosure, as the case may be, unless it is at a minimum height of 3 m or has a maximum opening of not more than 10 cm.

These requirements are only applicable to pools and enclosures acquired and installed since July 1, 2021. It should be noted that they do not apply to installations acquired before that date and installed between July 1 and September 30, 2021.

## **Relaxations to the current rules**

---

Also since July 1, 2021

- it is now possible to install a passive gate safety device (latch) on the outside of an enclosure if it is at least 1.5 m above ground.
- openings are now allowed in a wall forming part of an enclosure if they are located at a minimum height of 3 m or if their maximum opening is not more than 10 cm.

## **How the new rules will be applied**

To avoid requiring changes of an owner whose installations already complied with the Regulation before the entry into force of the new rules, these only apply to new installations since July 1, 2021 or, in the case of an installation acquired before that date, on or after October 1, 2021.

Under the Regulation a new installation may be: a pool, a diving board, an enclosure, a platform, or a deck providing access to the pool.

In the case of a demountable pool (e.g. an inflatable pool), the reinstallation of the same pool does not constitute a new installation for which the new rules apply.

## **Residential Swimming Pool Safety Regulation application guide**

- The [Residential Swimming Pool Safety Regulation application guide for municipal officers](#) provides details on the application of the provisions of the Residential Swimming Pool Safety Regulation. It is intended primarily for municipal officers tasked with its application but can also be a source of relevant information for any owner wishing to install or replace a residential pool.

## **Frequently asked questions**

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) answers key questions related to the requirements for residential pools under the Residential Pool Safety Regulation, including the most recent amendments that came into effect on July 1, 2021