



Media Release  
Thursday 13 November 2014

## Planning a pool this summer?

With summer on the way, many Selwyn families will be looking forward to warmer weather and the chance to cool off in a swimming pool.

For residents considering installing a new swimming pool at home, there are a number of things to think about before purchasing a pool.

Swimming pools or spas need to comply with the requirements of the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act which is designed to keep children safe around water used for swimming, wading, paddling or bathing. The Act includes rules about the height of swimming pool fences or pool barriers, the type of fencing and gates required and other issues.

“If you are planning a new pool, you will need to apply for a building consent,” says Council’s Building Consent Manager Ian Butler. “Council staff will check that your plans meet safety requirements for fencing when they process the consent.”

“It is a good idea to apply soon if you want to have the pool available this summer so there is enough time for the consent to be processed.”

A consent will also need to identify how the pool will be drained. Council approval will be needed if the pool is to drain into a Council wastewater system, otherwise the water will need to be drained within the property boundary. Owners will also need to check with the Council’s Planning department to see whether there are any District Plan requirements they need to meet.

“If you are planning a new pool or spa pool or if you already own a pool, you will also need to keep the area around the pool fence clear of anything that could allow children to climb over the fence. These could include trees and shrubs, seats, tables or other items,” says Mr Butler.

Pool owners also need to check that their gate is in good working order and continues to close completely by itself. They should also check that the pool structure is sound and the backflow device is kept clean and is in good working order.

For information on swimming pool requirements, visit [www.selwyn.govt.nz](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz).

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