

## Category 1: Physical Barriers & Legal Compliance (CA Health & Safety Code)

- Fence Height: Is the pool enclosure at least 60 inches (5 feet) tall?  
Ground Clearance: Is the gap between the bottom of the fence and the ground 2 inches or less?
- Gaps and Slats: Are all vertical slats or gaps narrow enough to prevent a 4-inch sphere from passing through?
- Climb-Resistance: Is the exterior of the fence free of handholds, footholds, or decorative cutouts that a child under 5 could use to climb?
- The "3-Foot Rule": Are all chairs, tables, planters, and toys at least 3 to 5 feet away from the outside of the fence to prevent them from being used as "ladders"?
- Gate Direction: Does the gate swing outward (away from the pool area)?  
Self-Closing/Self-Latching: Does the gate close and latch automatically from any open position?
- Latch Height: Is the gate latch release at least 60 inches above the ground? (If using a door-access latch, it must be at least 54 inches high).
- The "Two-Factor" Check: Does your pool have at least two of the seven CA-approved safety features (e.g., a fence and an exit alarm)?

## Category 2: Supervision & Daily Habits

- The Water Watcher: Is there a designated adult wearing a "Water Watcher" lanyard whose only job is to monitor the pool (no phone, no books, no side conversations)?
- "Pool-Out" Habits: Are all toys, floats, and "attractions" removed from the pool immediately after use so children aren't tempted to reach for them?
- The 5-Minute Rule: If an adult must leave the area for even a minute (to answer the door or grab a towel), must all children exit the pool and the gate be locked?
- Secondary Hazards: Are all buckets, "kiddie pools," and ice chests emptied and turned upside down immediately after use? (Children can drown in as little as 2 inches of water).
- Life Jacket Check: Are non-swimmers wearing U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets rather than "puddle jumpers" or inflatable arm-floaties?

## Category 3: Emergency Preparedness

- Phone Accessibility: Is there a fully charged phone kept poolside specifically for emergency 911 calls?
- Rescue Equipment: Is there a life ring (minimum 17-inch diameter) and a rescue pole (minimum 12 feet) kept in a visible, permanent location?
- CPR Certification: Are all caregivers (parents, grandparents, babysitters) certified in 2026 AHA CPR standards?
- "Pool First" Search Rule: Do all household members know that if a child is missing, the first place to check is the pool? (Seconds are the difference between recovery and permanent disability).
- Alarms: Are the "Exit Alarms" on doors leading to the pool tested monthly to ensure the batteries are functional?