

## *Managing property properly*

### **These are the new safety standards for private swimming pools – and a fence is no longer good enough**

Phillip de Wet, Business Insider SA

- The Standards Bureau is in the final stages of updating rules for private swimming pools, because kids are still drowning.
- The latest standard says that a fence around a swimming pool is not enough; every pool should also have a safety net or cover.
- That net must be child-proof, professionally installed, and must carry the weight of an adult safely.
  
- Every private swimming pool that can hold more than 30cm of water should be surrounded not only by a kid-proof fence, but should also be fitted with a safety net or a safety cover to prevent children drowning, according to a draft update from the SA Bureau of Standards (SABS).
- Such a net or cover cannot be DIY installed but must be fitted by an "accredited responsible party", according to the standard.
- A cover is disqualified if it allows rainwater to pool for more than five minutes, or if a child can unfasten it. It must require keys, a combination lock or "special tools, devices, or inaccessible locations" to remove.
- For larger swimming pools a net or cover must have a carrying weight of at least 220k to "permit a rescue" operation while holding up one child and two adults. For smaller pools, less than 2.4m at its widest point, the weight requirement is 125kg, for one adult and child.
- The requirements form part of SANS 10134, a SABS standard last updated in 2008.