



# Safety Alert

## Pop Up Swimming Pools

***“Anyone using a temporary pool should also speak to the manufacturer/installer, ensure it is safe to use in the manner intended, and adhere to the basic principles of risk identification and control, both in terms of installation but also general operation of the pool” (HSE, 2024).***



Temporary ‘pop up’ swimming pools are being used at dozens of sites across the country to help deliver school swimming lessons and water safety sessions. The Health and Safety team is gathering more safety information about these facilities being used across the Yorkshire and Humber region, and we know of several schools in Calderdale that are planning to use ‘pop up’ pools.

This increased usage has prompted the national governing body, Swim England, to highlight key health and safety aspects which must be fully considered before a pop-up pool is used – in a bid to foster a secure and enjoyable environment for individuals of all ages engaging in swimming activities. You can view their latest bulletin [here](#).

Swim England recognises the growing need for “temporary” swimming pools, with many schools now looking to condense a swim programme into a shorter time period and essentially hire a pool, to temporarily be set up on site. Whilst Swim England (and the Council’s H&S team) are not ruling this out as an option and fully support that the concept can work to serve a specific purpose, it must also be recognised that best practice must be followed to ensure that public safety is maintained.

School swimming and water safety lessons are part of the national curriculum and play an important role in helping children become water

competent. However, when using a temporary pool, the health, safety, and wellbeing of pool users must remain the primary importance.

Health and Safety regulations must still be followed, even for temporary pools. There are specific legal requirements under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999), and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH 2002).

In addition, as a commitment to safety, we insist that operators of temporary pools adhere to other health and safety guidance applicable to aquatic facilities, specifically [HSG179](#) and the guidance provided by the [Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group \(PWTAG\) in Technical Note 65](#). Adhering to this guidance is crucial for maintaining a safe environment for users.

Your school is directly responsible for entering into a contractual agreement with any service provider, ensuring that the service provider possesses the necessary qualifications and training to safely deliver and set up facilities in the correct manner. It is imperative that schools undertake a proper check and assure themselves that any potential service providers are suitably competent to keep pupils safe.

To assist schools in doing this, we have prepared a guidance document and **assurance checklist** (which can be found in Appendix 1). We recommend that all schools request that their pool providers complete and return this checklist, ensuring a copy is also forwarded to the Health and Safety team. The team is also willing to undertake on site inspections of any pool facilities to check the adequacy of arrangements before use.

Despite great information gathering, it is strongly advised that schools do not solely rely on the experiences of other schools. A reference is a good idea, but legally schools must conduct their own assurance exercise to ensure the service provider's suitability. Schools should only engage with service providers who can demonstrate their competence and hold the appropriate qualifications for the safe and effective management of the pool facilities.

**For further advice on this safety alert please contact the Health and Safety Team on 01422 393067. Further information on the requirements relating to pop up swimming pools can be found on the [Swim England](#) and [PWTAG](#) websites.**