

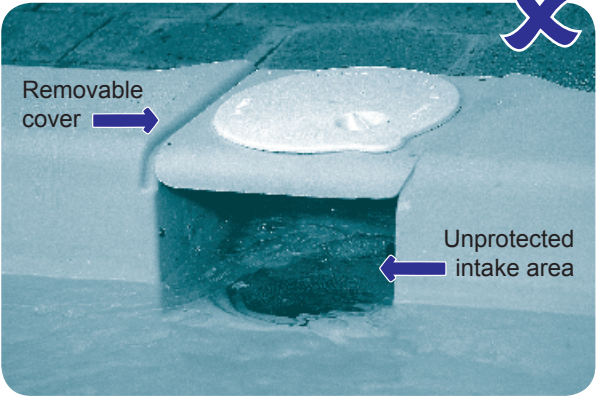


Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Commerce**
Consumer Protection

Product safety alert

Swimming pool skimmer boxes

Unsafe skimmer box



Safe skimmer box



To a child, an uncovered skimmer box looks like a potty or seat

Children in Western Australia have suffered serious injuries or died after sitting on open, potty-shaped skimmer boxes. The strong suction of the pool's filter pump can cause serious and permanent injury to young children.

Old fibreglass pools with skimmer boxes moulded into the side are highly unlikely to be safe as children can easily lift the cover and sit inside them.

How to make sure your skimmer box is safe

If your skimmer box is unsafe, immediately:

- buy and fit a low-cost conversion kit, which is available from local swimming pool suppliers;
- or
- place a bar or other fitting (safety skirt) across the opening of the skimmer box to prevent children from sitting in the box;
- or
- permanently fix the cover over the skimmer box so it can only be removed using a tool.

If you have any doubt about a skimmer box contact Consumer Protection's product safety team on **1300 30 40 54**, visit www.productsafety.gov.au or contact a local pool shop for expert advice.