



Layers of protection are the key to pool safety

- 1) The first most important layer is supervision: children are naturally drawn to water and can become unconscious in two minutes. Therefore a designated water watcher is needed at all times when children are near water.
- 2) The second layer is an appropriate four sided four foot high barrier, that encloses all four sides of the pool and has access only by a self closing, self latching gate which cannot be accessed by foot or hand holds near the gate.
- 3) Alarms are added for additional protection. Alarms are available for house doors, windows, the fence gate, for use in the pool itself to detect motion, and in wristwatch format that alert you if the child gets in the pool.
- 4) Around the pool itself, should be safety equipment including a safety hook, and a lifesaving ring. Consider installing a phone near the pool and learning CPR as an added precaution.
- 5) Pool covers can be installed that cover the pool when it is not in use.
- 6) Pool furniture and other items than can be used to scale fences should be placed away from the fence preferably inside the fenced area.
- 7) Toys are an added attraction to children and should never be left in the water or near the pool area.
- 8) Swimming lessons can be taught as early as age four; however they are not a safeguard against drowning and should not replace supervision.
- 9) Do yearly maintenance to ensure locks and gates are still functioning as well as trim shrubs and such that might be footholds for access or might hinder sight vision of the pool.

Other tips:

- Children can drown in a few inches of water so all types of water can be dangerous, including wading pools and hot tubs.
- Floaties are not a lifesaving device and do not protect a child from drowning.
- Children can enter water and drown without making a sound so the pool should be the first place to look when a child is missing and time is of the essence.
- Caregivers are a child's role model so practice pool safety and it will increase the likelihood your child will as well.
- To reduce the risk of drain entrapment, pools can now be purchased with two drains.