



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.
- 3) Alarms are added for additional protection. Alarms are available for the house, doors, windows, fence gate(s), for use in the pool itself to detect motion, and in a wristwatch format that alerts you if the child gets in the pool.
- 4) Around the pool itself, there should be safety equipment including a safety hook and a lifesaving ring. Consider installing a phone near the pool and learning CPR as added precautions.
- 5) Pool covers can be installed that cover the pool when it is not in use.
- 6) Pool furniture and other items that 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.

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 prevent 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.
- To reduce the risk of drain entrapment, pools can now be purchased with two drains.

