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## Pool Safety

STAYING SAFE IN RESIDENTIAL POOLS



### *Simple Water Safety Steps Can Save Lives*

Your greatest water safety assurance comes from adopting and practicing as many safety steps as possible. Parents and families can build on their current safety systems at pools and spas by adopting additional water safety steps. Adding as many proven water safety steps as possible is the best way to assure a safe and fun experience, because you can never know which one might save a child’s life—until it does.

These are safety steps you can adopt at your residential pool or spa:

#### *Staying Close, Being Alert and Watching Children in and Around the Pool*

- Always watch your children when they are in or near a pool or spa.
- Teach children basic water safety tips.
- Keep children away from pool drains, pipes and other openings to avoid entrapments.
- Have a portable telephone close by at all times when you or your family are using a pool or spa.
- If a child is missing, look for him or her in the pool or spa first.
- Share safety instructions with family, friends and neighbors.

#### *Learning and Practicing Water Safety Skills*

- Learn how to swim and teach your child how to swim.
- Learn to perform CPR on children and adults, and update those skills regularly.
- Understand the basics of life-saving so that you can assist in a pool emergency.

#### *Having the Appropriate Equipment for Your Pool or Spa*

- Install a four-foot or taller fence around the pool and spa and use self-closing and self-latching gates; ask your neighbors to do the same at their pools.
- Install and use a lockable safety cover on your spa.
- If your house serves as a fourth side of a fence around a pool, install door alarms and always use them. For additional protection, install window guards on windows facing pools or spas.
- Install pool and gate alarms to alert you when children go near the water.
- Ensure any pool and spa you use has compliant drain covers, and ask your pool service provider if you do not know.
- Maintain pool and spa covers in good working order.
- Consider using a surface wave or underwater alarm.

#### *Create a Pool Safety Toolkit for Your Home Pool or Spa*

It is recommended that you create a pool safety toolkit to have near your pool or spa to ensure that if the worst happens, you are ready to respond.

#### *What should be in a pool safety toolkit for your home pool or spa?*

- A first aid kit.
- A pair of scissors to cut hair, clothing or a pool cover, if needed.
- A charged portable telephone to call 911.
- A flotation device.

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