

Swimming Pool Safety

Drowning is one of the leading causes of injury-related deaths for children ages 1 to 14 in the United States. Most drowning accidents occur in residential swimming pools with children who are under the care of one or both parents at the time. Use the following tips to ensure that children are properly supervised at all times so drowning accidents are less likely to occur.

Supervision Tips

- If possible, have a fence that completely surrounds the pool to prevent children from entering the pool area when they are unsupervised.
- Never take your eyes off children in the water—**not even for one minute!**
- Avoid distractions such as reading, talking on the phone, texting, household chores, and drinking alcohol.
- Make sure that an adult accompanies all small children in the pool.
- Do not assume that flotation devices will save a child from drowning—**children using these devices should still be supervised!**

Pool Rules

- Do not allow running or horseplay around the pool area.
- Keep toys away from the pool area when the pool is not in use.
- Do not allow jumping or diving in pools that are not deep enough.
- Do not allow bicycles or other riding toys by the pool.

Other Protective Measures

- Learn how to swim and teach your child how to swim.
- Take a CPR class and update those skills regularly.
- Create a **“Pool Safety Toolkit”** to keep around the pool area. This kit should consist of the following items:
 - A first aid kit
 - A pair of scissors to cut hair, clothing, pool covers, etc., in the event of an emergency
 - A telephone to dial 911
 - An extra flotation device

