



The Office of Fire Safety and Injury Prevention Education

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Swimming Pools Checklist for safety

Swimming pools can provide countless hours of recreation and healthy activity for all family members. At the same time, pools are a tremendous responsibility that require strict safety practices.



Fencing

- There is fence or barrier completely surrounding the pool. If the house is part of the barrier, the doors to the pool are protected with an alarm.
- The fence is at least four feet high.
- The fence has no footholds or handholds that help a young child to climb it. On chain linked fences, no part of the diamond shaped opening is larger than 1 3/4 inches.
- Vertical slats are less than four inches apart to prevent a child from slipping through.

Gates

- The gate is self closing and self latching.
- The gate latching mechanism is out of reach of children.

Doors

- All exit doors from the house are protected with an alarm.
- There is an audible warning when doors from the house are opened.

Steps and Ladders

- Steps and ladders leading to an above ground pool are secured, locked or removed when the pool is not in use.

Pool Covers

- Covers are always removed completely when the pool is in use.
- Standing water is always removed from the cover.

Supervision

- Children are never left alone in or around a pool, even for a moment.
- Babysitters and guardians are always instructed about potential hazards to children in and around pools.
- Emergency Procedures
Parents, guardians and babysitters know CPR.
- There is a telephone at poolside.
- Everyone is familiar with all the safety devices around the pool.

Nearly 70% of children under age five who have drowned were not expected to be in or near the pool at the time of the drowning. Nearly half were thought to be inside the house.

Fact Sheet