



# Children Aren't Waterproof

## Safety Tips

1. Never leave a child alone, or out of your eyesight, in or near a pool, spa, or hot tub—not even for a second.
2. Access to the pool, spa, or hot tub should be limited by locked doors and/or gates whenever swimming or soaking cannot be supervised.
3. Do not allow the use of a pool or spa, or operate it, if a suction outlet fitting is missing, broken, or loose. You may get entrapped.
4. Never play or swim near suction fittings (drains). Your body or hair may be trapped, causing permanent injury or drowning.
5. Keep toys, particularly tricycles or wheel toys, away from the pool, spa, or hot tub. A child playing with these could accidentally fall into the water.
6. Do not engage in extended breath-holding activities underwater. You may black out and drown.
7. Do not allow anyone of any age to swim without a “spotter” nearby. **Examples of good safety behavior by adults are important for your children.**



## Drowning Prevention Tips for Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs

For more free consumer safety information, visit:

[www.APSP.org](http://www.APSP.org)

[www.PoolSafely.gov](http://www.PoolSafely.gov)

[www.CDC.gov/healthywater/swimming](http://www.CDC.gov/healthywater/swimming)

It is your responsibility to enforce the rules of safety.



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## Drowning is one of the largest causes of accidental death for American infants and children under the age of five.

This brochure contains tips on how to help prevent these accidents.

### Drowning Prevention Tips for Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs

**1. There is no substitute for responsible adult supervision.**

2. Pools, spas, and hot tubs are attractive to children, and children must be kept away from them in the absence of responsible adult supervision.

A fence, wall, or natural/artificial barrier should completely surround your pool, spa, or hot tub. All gates or doors leading from the house to the pool area should have a self-closing and self-latching mechanism that protects against unauthorized entry and use.

The inside latch should be 54" (1.37 m) high, above the reach of toddlers or young children. Also, an alarm system for your pool, spa, or hot tub can warn you, if someone has penetrated the barrier.

3. Check with your state or local government to learn their specific legal requirements concerning fencing around pools, spas, and hot tubs. You cannot be too cautious. If your pool, spa, or hot tub is indoors, lock the door to the room or have a cover that locks, to keep out children.
4. Never swim in or use any pool or spa that has a broken or missing drain cover.

5. Never play in or swim near suction fittings or drains. Your body or hair may be trapped, causing permanent injury or drowning.
6. Do not place objects (such as chairs or tables) near the pool, spa, or hot tub fence or barrier that could allow a youngster to climb over.
7. Remove vegetation and other obstacles to create a clear view of the pool, spa, or hot tub from the house.
8. If you use a pool, spa, or hot tub cover, carefully read and follow the manufacturer's directions for safe installation, use, and maintenance. Always **completely** remove the cover before using your pool, spa, or hot tub to avoid the possibility of anyone—especially a small child—being trapped and drowning under the cover.
9. Drain any standing water from the surface of your pool, spa, or hot tub cover. An infant or small child can drown in even the smallest amount of water.
10. If you use any of the lightweight, floating pool, spa, or hot tub covers, be especially alert for the potential for drowning accidents. These covers are not designed for safety and no one should ever crawl or walk on them.

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