Support Building Safety!

For more information about building safety codes and local requirements, contact your local building department.

1-888-ICC-SAFE (422-7233)

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Prevent Accidents,
Save Lives

Pool and Spa Safety

ADULT SUPERVISION AND OTHER SAFETY TIPS
Alert adult supervision of children is essential in pools and spas at all times. There is no substitute for adult supervision to ensure child safety in the water.

Important safety measures include:
• Assign an adult to watch the pool when children are present, making sure there are no distractions such as talking with friends or cooking on a grill.
• The assigned adult must be watching the children at all times.
• Don’t assume guests or their children can swim. Ask and observe.
• Don’t leave toys in or around the pool area.
• Toddlers and infants should have physical contact with an adult at all times while in the pool area.
• Make sure all doors and gates leading to the pool or spa area are securely closed when the pool is not in use.
• Do not allow anyone impaired by alcohol or drugs to use the pool.

Safety Gear
Keep a phone within easy reach of the pool area for emergency calls. Post local emergency numbers in the pool area. Always keep basic lifesaving equipment by the pool and know how to use it. A pole, rope and personal flotation devices are recommended.

EDUCATION
Make sure at least one adult supervising activities around the pool has cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training.
• Teach your children to swim.
• Post CPR instructions in the pool area.
• Post basic rules for pool safety in a visible spot near the pool.

WATER QUALITY
Clean and clear water is essential for safe pool and spa use. If you cannot see the bottom of the pool at its deepest point, the pool should not be used and you should contact your pool professional.

ELECTRICITY
There should be no electrical devices in the pool or spa area unless they are installed, maintained and inspected by qualified professionals. Electrical devices also need to be protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter.

POOLSAFELY.GOV
Children can enjoy educational videos and interactive activities while learning about pool safety and family fun in the water at www.poolsafely.gov.

Connect with us

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22-21226
In the United States, every year more than 284 children under the age of five drown in swimming pools out of more than 5,100 children that seek medical treatment for pool-related accidents—an adult losing contact or knowledge of the whereabouts of the child, and during that period, the child managed to access the pool/spa.

The highest percentage of the reports (56 percent) attributed the incident to a gap in adult supervision (an adult losing contact or knowledge of the whereabouts of the child, and during that period, the child managed to access the pool/spa).

WHAT WE CAN DO
Building safety codes are life savers. The International Codes, the most widely used and adopted set of building safety codes in the world, include specific provisions to make pools and spas safer. For example:

FENCES
- Install a fence at least four-feet-high around the pool area.
- Install a self-closing, self-latching gate or door in the fence to make pool areas inaccessible to children and unauthorized swimmers.
- Spas and hot tubs also should have a similar fence or an approved, lockable safety cover.

DOOR ALARMS
If the house serves as the fourth side of the fence, install an alarm on the door that complies with UL 2017 (General-Purpose Signaling Devices and Systems) leading to the pool. When the door or gate is opened, the alarm sounds and acts as an early warning device.

POOL ALARMS
Install a pool alarm to detect accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. While the alarm provides an immediate warning, it does not substitute for the fences, door alarms and safety covers required by the code.

SAFETY COVERS
Install either an automatic or manually operated, approved safety cover that complies with industry standard ASTM F1346 (Standard Performance Specification for Safety Covers and Labeling Requirements for All Covers for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs) to completely block access to water in the pool or spa. Never allow anyone to stand or play on a pool cover.

SAFETY VACUUM RELEASE OR VENTED SYSTEMS
Pools and spas with a single drain, other than an unblockable outlet, must have one of the following: a safety vacuum release system; an engineered vent system; a gravity drainage system; or other safety features that comply with industry standard (ANSI/PHTA/ICC-7-2020 Suction Entrapment Avoidance in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs, and Catch Basins).

POOL CLEANER FITTINGS
Pools and spas with wall vacuum fittings must have self-closing, self-latching covers located at not greater than 12 inches below the minimum operating water level. In addition, the vacuum piping shall be equipped with a valve to remain in the closed position when not in use.

SAVING, ENHANCING LIVES THROUGH CODES

POOL AND SPAS ARE GREAT FOR PLAY, EXERCISE AND THERAPY. HOWEVER, AN ALARMING NUMBER OF WATER-RELATED DEATHS AND INJURIES OCCUR IN AND AROUND POOLS EACH YEAR. PROPERLY FOLLOWING BUILDING SAFETY CODES, SUCH AS THE CODE COUNCIL’S INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING POOL AND SPA CODE, CAN HELP PREVENT SUCH TRAGEDIES AND ENSURE FAMILY AND FRIENDS HAVE A SAFER, MORE ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE WHEN USING POOLS AND SPAS.