

Swimming Pool Safety

Jumping into the backyard swimming pool is a great way to cool off and enjoy time with friends and family.

While the pool is a great place to have fun and relax, it is an unfortunate reality that drowning is one of the leading causes of death for children nationwide.

To help you ensure your backyard pool is safe the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) offers these tips for additional “layers of protection”:

Fencing: Isolate the swimming pool with a minimum four-foot-high enclosure to temporarily close off a pool, spa, or hot tub not being used when children are visiting.

Safety Covers: Install an impenetrable casing that completely covers the pool, spa, or hot tub to prevent access to the water when there is no supervision.

Alarms: Get an alarm, which are available for doors, fences, and as a clip-on for children, to detect unwanted entrances to your pool, spa, or hot tub.

Rope and Float Lines: Place a rope or float line across the pool to let swimmers know where the deep end separates from the shallow end.

Rescue Equipment: Locate equipment such as a life ring or shepherd's hook near the pool in an easily accessible spot, and ensure they are kept in good condition. These can be used to pull someone to safety when in trouble.

Posted Emergency Information: Post CPR information and warning signs, as well as the emergency telephone number -- 911 -- near the pool, spa, or hot tub.

Outside Telephone: Keep a cordless or poolside telephone nearby so you don't leave children unattended while you answer the phone. It's also a good idea to have one handy to summon help, if needed.

These are great ways to help ensure that your family remains safe while enjoying one of the summer's most popular activities. It is important to remember, however, that these should not replace adult supervision. When children have access to any body of water, a designated adult should always be alert and aware.

For more tips from APSP on maintenance and safety tips for pools, spas, and hot tubs, visit them online at www.apsp.org.

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