

## Keeping Kids Safe Around Water at Home

There are many things parents and caregivers can do to help protect children from drowning – whether it’s a swimming pool outside the home or a bathtub indoors.

### Swimming Pool Safety

The key to preventing drownings around swimming pools includes placing barriers completely around the pool, closely supervising young children, and being prepared in case of emergency. Be sure to take the following steps.

- Never leave a child alone near water. A child can drown in the few minutes it takes to answer the telephone. Drownings occur quickly and silently, often without any splashing or screaming.
- Flotation devices are never to be used as a substitute for supervision. Also, knowing how to swim doesn’t make a child drown-proof.
- If a child is missing, always look first in the pool. Seconds count in preventing death or disability..
- If your house forms one side of the barrier for the pool, doors leading from the house to the pool should be protected with alarms that produce an audible sound when a door is unexpectedly opened. A power safety cover – a motor-powered barrier that can be placed over the water area – can be used as an alternative to door alarms.
- Be sure to install physical barriers around the pool to limit access. Fences and walls should be at least 4-feet high and installed completely around the pool. Gates should be self-closing and self-latching. The latch should be out of a small child’s reach.
- For above-ground pools, steps and ladders to the pool should be secured and locked or removed

- Keep rescue equipment by the pool. Be sure a phone is poolside with emergency numbers posted. Parents and other caregivers who know cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can greatly improve a drowning victim’s chances for survival.

### At-Home Drowning Prevention Tips

- Never leave a baby alone in a bathtub for even a second. Always keep the baby within arm’s reach. Don’t leave the baby in the care of another young child. Never leave to answer the phone, answer the door, to get a towel, or for any other reason. If you must leave, take the baby with you.
- A baby bath seat is not a substitute for supervision. A bath seat is a bathing aid, not a safety device. Never use a baby bath seat with suction cups in a nonskid, slip-resistant bathtub or in one that has slip-resistant safety strips or decals. This is because the suction cups will not adhere to the bathtub surface or can detach unexpectedly.
- Never leave unattended a bucket containing even a small amount of liquid. When finished using a bucket, always empty it immediately. Store buckets where young children cannot reach them. Buckets left outside to collect rainwater are a hazard.
- Consider placing latches on bathroom doors out of reach of young children. This limits children’s access to water.
- To prevent children from gaining access to spas or hot tubs when not in use, firmly secure safety covers and barriers.
- Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). It can be a lifesaver when seconds count.