



## Pool Safety for Children

A swimming pool in the yard can be a very dangerous area for children. If possible, do not put a swimming pool in your yard until your children are over 5 years of age. If you already have a pool, protect your children from drowning by doing the following:

- Never leave your children alone in or near the pool, even for a moment.
- You must put up a fence to separate your house from the pool. Most young children who drown in pools wander out of the house and fall into the pool. Install a 5-foot fence around all four sides of the pool. This fence will completely separate the pool from the house and play area of the yard. Use gates that self-close and self-latch, with latches higher than your children's reach.
- A motorized pool cover operated by a switch that meets the standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) adds to the protection of your children but should not be used in place of the fence between your house and the pool.
- Keep rescue equipment (such as a shepherd's hook or life preserver) and a telephone by the pool.
- Avoid air-filled "swimming aids" because they are not a substitute for approved life vests and can be dangerous.
- Anyone watching young children around a pool should learn CPR and be able to rescue a child if needed. Even fencing around your pool and using a pool cover will not prevent all drownings.
- Remove all toys from the pool after use so children aren't tempted to reach for them.
- After the children are done swimming, secure the pool so they can't get back into it.

Remember, teaching your child how to swim DOES NOT mean your child is safe in water.

The information in this publication should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on the individual facts and circumstances.

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