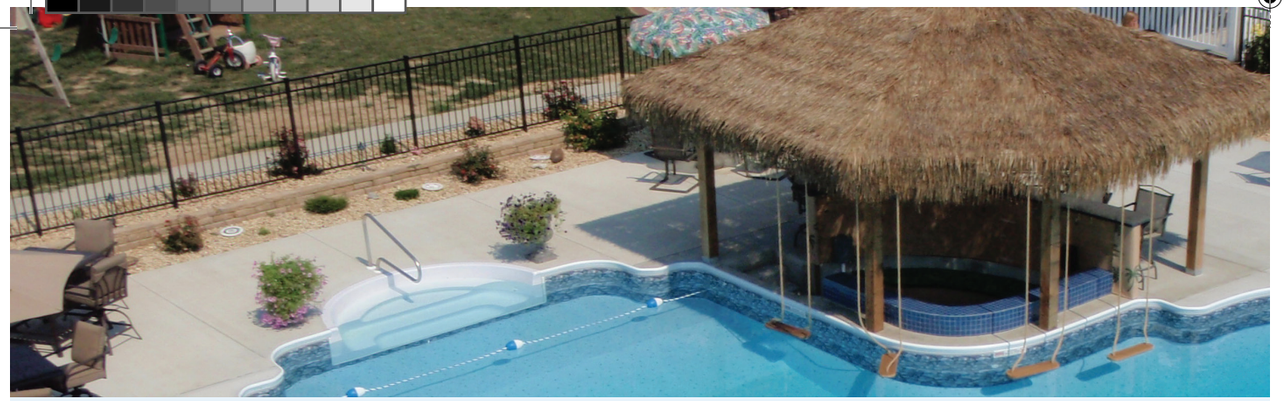

ADULT SUPERVISION AND OTHER SAFETY TIPS

Building safety codes protect children and adults in pools, hot tubs and spas. Alert adult supervision of children is essential in pools, hot tubs and spas at all times. There is no substitute for adult supervision to ensure child safety in the water.

Other safety measures include:

- Assign an adult to watch the pool at all times 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.
- Infants and small children should have constant supervision.
- 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, spa and hot tub 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, spa and hot tub area unless they are installed, maintained and inspected by qualified professionals. Electrical devices also need to be protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).

KID CONNECTIONS

Sonny, the friendly fish, and Bubbles, the safe hot tub and pool buddy, teach children about pool, spa and hot tub safety through fun coloring and activity books at www.Splashzoneusa.com.

Support Building Safety!

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

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1-888-ICC-SAFE (422-7233) | www.buildingsafetymonth.org

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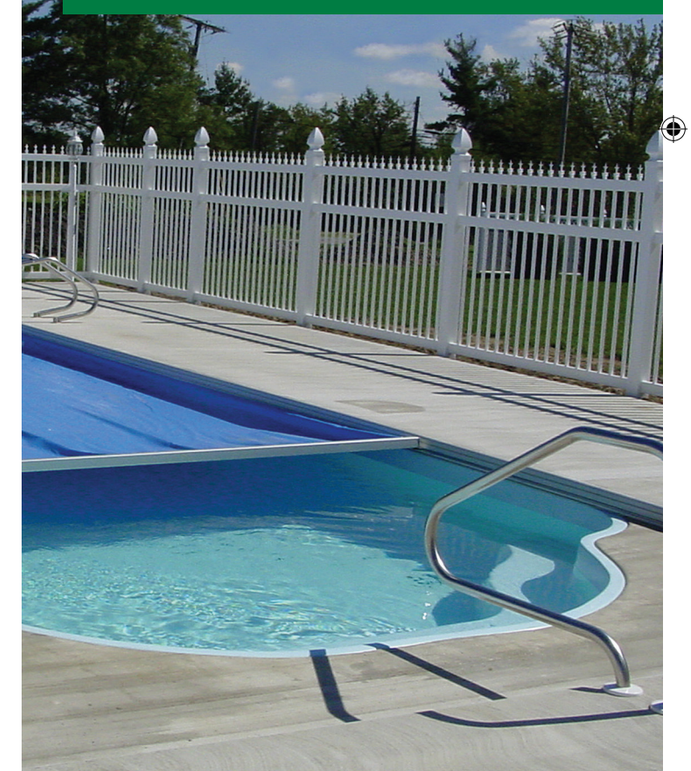
People Helping People Build a Safer World®

Prevent Accidents, Save Lives

Pool, Spa and Hot Tub Safety



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Safe Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs Save Lives

Pools 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 International 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, spas and hot tubs.

STATISTICS

Every year, more than 250 children under the age of five drown in swimming pools and more than 2,700 children seek medical treatment for pool-related accidents—mostly in backyard pools, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

More than 75 percent of swimming pool accident victims were missing for five minutes or less when they were found drowned or in serious trouble.

One or both parents were supervising victims when the swimming pool accident occurred.

WHAT WE CAN DO

Building safety codes are life savers. International Code Council® codes include specific provisions to make pools and spas safe. For example:

FENCES

- Install a fence at least four-feet-high around the pool area.
- Install a 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

Install a door alarm. 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.

Saving, Enhancing Lives through Safety Codes

SAFETY COVERS

Install either an automatic or manually operated, approved safety cover to completely block access to water in the pool, spa or hot tub. Never allow anyone to stand or play on a pool cover.

DRAIN (SUCTION OUTLET) COVERS/ GRATES

All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or grate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked to indicate compliance with ANSI/ASME A112.19.8 2007. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has asked manufacturers to mark covers with "VGB 2008" to help identify covers that comply with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Safety Act that establishes safety requirements for public pools and spas.

A suction outlet (drain) cover, marked "VGB 2008", protects people from entrapment below water. A missing cover, or a cover that is not marked "VGB 2008", could result in some part of a swimmer's body, such as fingers, limbs and hair, to become entangled in the drain. They might not be able to free themselves in time resulting in a near drowning injury or drowning. The pool should be closed immediately when broken, missing or noncompliant suction outlet (drain) covers are first noticed. Replacement of drain covers should be performed by a pool professional. Even with a compliant drain cover installed, it is always good pool safety to never allow anyone to play near or with a drain cover.

OUTLET CONFIGURATION

Pools and spas with drains should have more than one drain (suction outlet), spaced a minimum of 3 feet apart; one or more unblockable drains or no main drain.

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 (SVRS); an engineered vent system; a gravity drainage system; or other safety features that comply with industry standards (ANSI/APSP-7-2013).

POOL CLEANER FITTINGS

Pools and spas with wall vacuum fittings must have self closing, self latching covers located at least 6 inches and not greater than 18 inches below the minimum operating water level, or as an attachment to the skimmer.

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