

**Pool Season Water Safety Tips**

It’s time to brush off your barbecue grill, stock up on popsicles, and put on a new swimsuit because summer is practically here! After a winter with too much snow and a spring with too much rain, we are more than ready for summer. And if your neighborhood is anything like ours, the arrival of summer means one thing: water safety tips

**POOL SEASON!**

In the excitement of summer, it’s tempting to just throw on a suit and jump into the water. But wait…for most of us, it’s been about a year since we dipped our toes in a pool. A year may not seem like a long period of time for most people, but for young children, it’s an eternity and they’ve forgotten all about pool safety.

[Pool Safely](https://www.poolsafely.gov/), a governmental public education campaign that works to reduce child drowning, reports that drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death in children ages 1-4. However, these deaths can easily be prevented by educating or refreshing yourself on how to keep your child safe and taking specific, common sense actions. So before you and your family cannonball into the pool, make sure you review these **9 simple Water Safety Tips:**

**1. Maintain constant supervision whenever children are in or near water.**

Never leave kids unattended, avoid all distractions, and if a child isn’t in sight, check the pool first.

**2. Teach your child how to swim or give them a life jacket.**

Floaties or other inflatables are not life jackets and should never be substituted for adult supervision.

**3. Teach children to stay away from drains, pipes, and other pool openings to avoid entrapment.**

Make sure all drains and pipes are securely covered *before* letting your child get into the water.

**4. Never let your child swim alone.**

Always have an adult present—do not entrust your child’s life to another child.

**5. Teach your kids the “Rules of the Pool.”**

Set ground rules for being in the pool, like only getting in at certain times and no pushing or diving.

**6. Keep your pool clean and clear with proper pool maintenance.**

Following your pool’s recommended maintenance schedule and treating your pool regularly with the prescribed pool chemicals will keep your pool water clear—so you will be able to easily see down to the bottom. This will also minimize the risk of swimmers experiencing earaches, rashes, and other illnesses.

**7. Create barriers for your pool to help reduce the occurrence of accidents.**

Isolate your pool from your home with a fence or locked gate and keep toys away from the pool.

**8. Educate yourself on what** [**drowning**](https://www.consumerreports.org/outdoor-safety/how-to-spot-the-signs-of-drowning/) **looks like.**

Drowning can be silent and very easy to miss—know how to spot it.

**9. Learn CPR and know when to call 9-1-1.**

Have a plan in place on what to do during a water emergency; review it with your children frequently.

Summer is supposed to be a time of relaxation and enjoyment. But remember, it only takes one second for a child to go underwater. Ensure a safe and fun summer by educating yourself and your children and everyone being prepared with the right skills and equipment prior to hitting the pool. Click [here](https://www.poolsafely.gov/parents/take-action/) to learn more about Pool Safely’s tools and educational materials for water safety.

Don’t forget! There are also insurance implications for properties with pools. Pool accidents happen so frequently that having one is considered an “attractive nuisance,” which increases liability risk. Because of the increased danger, the Insurance Information Institute says pool owners may want to [increase their liability coverage](https://www.iii.org/press-release/before-taking-a-dip-in-the-swimming-pool-consider-the-insurance-and-safety-implications-080111) to *at least $300,000 or $500,000.*

Be sure to take all these precautions, and then cannonball away!

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