

To help keep kids safe this pool season, use layers of protection: **Lock, Look, and Learn:**

Lock

- Pools and spas should be surrounded on all four sides by a fence at least four feet high with self-closing and self-latching gates. This type of isolation fencing could prevent 50 to 90 percent of child drowning in residential pools.
- Pools and spas should have compliant anti-entrapment drain covers and back up devices to ensure safer places for children to swim.
- Be mindful of inflatable or portable pools – these types of pools can also pose a drowning risk and are generally not separated by fencing on all four sides.

Look

- Always watch children when they are around any type of water. According to a national study, a parent or caregiver claimed to be supervising the child in nearly nine out of 10 child drowning-related deaths.
- Designate a “Water Watcher” – a responsible adult who is in charge of watching children while they are in or near water. The Water Watcher should not be distracted by phone calls, text messages, reading or talking to others.
- Supervise children even if they know how to swim – knowing how to swim does not prevent drowning. Children who cannot swim well or cannot swim at all should be within your arm’s reach. They can also wear properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets.
- Keep a phone near you – use it only to call for help if there is an emergency.
- If a child is missing, check the water first.

Learn

- Learn how to swim – it is an important skill for both children and adults to know.
- Learn to use life jackets. Children who cannot swim or cannot swim well can wear U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets that are appropriate for the child’s size and weight. Do not rely on inflatable swimming toys such as water wings and noodles; these toys should never be used in place of U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets.
- Learn CPR and know how to use rescue equipment – these are important skills to know if there is an emergency. In less than two hours, you can learn effective interventions that can give a fighting chance to a child whose breathing and heartbeat have stopped.
- Teach children water safety rules such as never swim alone, always wear a life jacket while boating, and never swim or play near pool or spa drains.