

Florida Swimming Pool Association
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Swimming pool safety is important year round in Florida but the warm summer months are a good reason to reevaluate your pool. One issue everyone should be aware of is circulation/ suction entrapment. This can occur with a suction outlet (drain) or wall vacuum fittings. The five types of entrapment are hair, limb, body, evisceration/ disembowelment and mechanical (jewelry or clothing is trapped). While entrapment is not a very frequent occurrence, it is still good to know there are ways to prevent it.

As of December 20, 2008, only anti-entrapment drain covers (2007 ASME A112.19.8) can be sold in the United States. Homeowners should upgrade their covers and maintain their pools to current safety codes. Ask a licensed professional to inspect all suction outlets. Have certified drain covers installed and make sure all vacuum fittings are self-closing/ self-latching.

If your pool has a single main drain, there are safer circulation options you can implement. Speak to a licensed pool professional about a single unblockable outlet, an additional outlet, a gravity flow system, a vent system, a safety vacuum release system, a converted suction outlet to return inlet or disabling the suction outlet having a skimmer capable of the full system flow. While these retrofits are not required for residential pools, they are mandatory for commercial pools.

Even with these changes in place, do not allow anyone to play with or sit on any suction outlet or wall vacuum fittings. Do not use a pool if the drain cover is broken or missing. It is also a good idea to pull long hair back into a ponytail or bathing cap and to remove jewelry before entering the pool.

Here are some other tips for swimming pool safety:

- Have a designated pool watcher to keep an eye on swimmers at all times
- Learn CPR
- Keep your safety barriers and layers of protection in place at all times
- Never swim alone, this means adults too
- Do not use a pool/ spa while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Do not use glass containers around the pool
- Keep the pool area well lit if swimming after dark
- Go in at the first sign of thunderstorms
- No running or rough play
- No diving in shallow water and always steer your dive up
- Never stand or play on a pool cover
- Read and follow the labels and instructions when using and storing pool chemicals
- Keep emergency phone numbers posted in the pool area
- Do not leave toys near a pool, they can attract children
- Do not leave objects near the fence that a child could climb over
- Learn to swim

Consumers can find information and search for members in their area by visiting www.FloridaPoolPro.com. The Florida Swimming Pool Association is a trade association for the pool and spa industry in Florida. There are approximately 600 member businesses in 16 Chapters across the state. Members are required to abide by a code of ethics and to be properly licensed and insured. FSPA provides the industry with access to continuing education courses, information on current trends and issues, an arbitration program and government relations representation. FSPA is governed by a Board of Directors.

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