

Florida Swimming Pool Association
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Swimming pools provide a refreshing form of entertainment, interaction and exercise. When it comes to children and pools, responsibility is added to that list. Watching children constantly without any interruption is necessary to keep them safe. It only takes an instant for a child to sneak away. Multiple preventative safety measures are therefore an inherently necessary part of swimming pool and water safety.

Barriers should be at least four feet tall and any gaps or openings should be too small for a child to crawl through or under. Gates that access the pool area should open outward, away from the pool, and be self-closing and self-latching. Any doors that go from the home directly to the pool should be self-closing, self-latching and the handle should be no lower than 54 inches above the floor. Safety pool covers should be approved as such and be lockable.

Other safety devices include door and window alarms, detection alarms around/ in the pool (there are several different types), personal immersion alarms for a child or pet, life rings and shepherd hooks.

Implementing several ways to keep children away from the pool when they aren't allowed to use it can make all the difference. Here are some other safety tips:

- 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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