

# Have More Fun in the Sun with Pool Safety

## kids safety tips!

- always have a trusted adult nearby!
- don't run around the pool area!
- wait 30 minutes after eating to swim!
- don't splash anyone!
- don't dunk anyone underwater!
- wear sunblock!
- make fun rules with your parents about pool safety!

**Mom/Dad!**  
your safety tips  
are on the back!

#1 tip

**HAVE FUN!**



## Parent safety tips!

Hundreds of young children drown every year in residential swimming pools. These are silent deaths where splashing and screaming to alert a parent or caregiver is unlikely to occur. Owners must construct and maintain barriers that will prevent young children from gaining access to pools. In accordance with the 2009 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, building and electrical permits are required in addition to rough in and final inspections before any swimming pool, spa, or hot tub can be installed and occupied. This includes inflatable, above ground, and in ground pools.

## Building Regulations

- ☉ All doors from the house that have direct access to the pool deck enclosure must be equipped with an exit alarm.
- ☉ All gates in the pool barrier must be equipped with a self closing and self latching device mechanisms no less than 54" above finished grade or at least 3" down from the top of pool side so that it cannot be reached by a young child.
- ☉ Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall not be more than 1 3/4".
- ☉ Openings in the barrier shall not allow the passage of 4" diameter sphere.
- ☉ Maximum mesh size for chain link fence shall be 2 1/4" square unless the fence has slats on top or the bottom which reduces the openings to not more than 1 3/4".
- ☉ Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, shall not have indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled marks.
- ☉ The barrier must be at least four feet high on the outside.
- ☉ The barrier must be placed around the perimeter of the pool and be separate from any fence, wall, or other enclosure surrounding the yard. This is unless the fence, wall, or other enclosure is situated on the perimeter of the pool and is being used as part of the barrier and meets the barrier requirements listed.
- ☉ The structure of an above ground swimming pool may be used as its barrier or the barrier for such a pool may be mounted on top of its structure; however, such structure or separately mounted barrier must meet all barrier requirements listed. In addition, any ladder or steps that are the means of access to an above ground pool must be capable of being secured, locked, or removed to prevent access or must be surrounded by a barrier that meets the requirements of this section.
- ☉ Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the horizontal member is less than 45", those members are required to be on the pool side of the fence and the spacing between the vertical members is reduced to 1 3/4" max in width.
- ☉ Pools must have an entrapment prevention system. Anti-entrapment drain covers and fittings help prevent body or hair entrapment.

## Parent safety tips!

Parents and caregivers must never leave a child alone or out of sight in or near the pool, spa, or hot tub – not even for a second. Most childhood drowning deaths occur when the parent or caregiver becomes distracted by the telephone, doorbell, or chore around the home. Contact 911 immediately if an emergency should occur. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to become trained in CPR and to enroll their child, ages 4+, in swim lessons. Children should wear arm floaties or inflatable vests while in the water for extra protection; remember, these are not life jackets and should never be substituted for adult supervision.

Any resident interested in constructing a pool, spa, or hot tub in their yard may contact the City of Hampton Development Services Center @ 757-728-2444 with any questions. Building and electrical permits are required for all swimming pools that are designed to hold 24" or more of water, including storable or inflatable swimming pools. Check with the City of Hampton Development Services Center to obtain a permit before buying a swimming pool.