

# Pool and Spa Safety

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CENTER FOR CHILDHOOD SAFETY...

The majority of children who drown in a swimming pool were last seen in the home, had been missing from sight for less than five minutes, and were in the care of one or both parents at the time of the drowning.

- Provide constant supervision with no distractions.
- If a child is missing – always check the water **FIRST**.
- Have rescue equipment, like a throwable device, readily available.
- Have an emergency plan. Have a phone nearby. Learn CPR.
- Be aware that swimming lessons and swimming ability do not “drown proof” your child.



### **POOLS (in ground, above ground, and wading):**

- For best protection, use multiple layers of protection – add alarms on doors and windows that lead to the pool; use 4 sided fencing and pool/spa covers, etc.
- Install anti-entrapment drain covers – children can be held underwater by the powerful suction.
- Remove all toys from pool when finished.
- Empty and turn over wading pools when not in use.

### **SPAS AND HOT TUBS:**

- Install anti-entrapment drain covers.
- Keep the cover locked when not in use.

### **WASHINGTON BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS**

In Washington, it is required that new home pools have:

- four sided fencing at least 4 feet high
- self-closing and self-locking gates that lead to the pool, that are above the child's reach

Above ground pools must have similar barriers. There are two ways to do this:

- remove steps/ladder that lead up to the pool
- surround steps/ladder with fencing at least 4 feet high

***Drowning is a leading cause of injury death for Washington children.***

**MultiCare**   
**Mary Bridge Center for Childhood Safety**

For more information, visit: [www.multicare.org/childhoodsafety](http://www.multicare.org/childhoodsafety)  
253.403.1234

# Water Safety At Home

A MESSAGE FROM THE CENTER FOR CHILDHOOD SAFETY...

Drowning occurs quickly and silently. Children can drown in as little as one inch of water.

- Know the water dangers around your home
- Empty containers that can hold standing water and turn them upside down.
- Always check the water FIRST if a child is missing.



## WATER DANGERS

- flower pots
- buckets
- toilets
- bathtubs
- wading pools
- spas/hot tubs
- pools
- landscape water features
- ANY STRUCTURE THAT CONTAINS STANDING WATER

## BATHING

- More than 1/2 of drownings among infants (under age 1) occur in bathtubs. Baby bath seats or rings are not recommended and will not prevent your child from drowning.
- Stay in the room with your child while they are bathing. Do not ask older siblings or babysitters to bathe your child.
- To prevent scalding, set your water heater to 120 degrees or install an anti-scald device. Always test water first by using your elbow or wrist.

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