

Swimming Safety in Home Pools

Introduction

The purpose of this talk is to provide safety tips for home swimming pools. Disregard for, and ignorance of good safety practices are among the major causes of drownings. Regardless of your swimming ability, you must follow personal safe practices in and around a swimming pool.

Topical Information

Safety at Home Pools:

- Never permit anyone to swim alone. Constant and responsible supervision is a must.
- Never leave a child unattended in the pool area, even for the length of time it takes to answer the phone or the front door.
- See that the pool has adequate fencing and a gate with a lock to prevent children from unauthorized entry.
- Keep basic rescue and lifesaving equipment readily available.
- Post emergency instructions and emergency telephone numbers conspicuously.
- Have an adequate first aid kit available.
- Enforce common-sense safety rules at all times.
- Make sure at least one responsible person knows how to administer artificial respiration and provide emergency first aid. Do not allow anyone to swim unless the responsible person is there.
- Clearly mark the deep and shallow sections where applicable.
- Mark the separation of deep and shallow water by use of a buoyed line whenever weak swimmers or non-swimmers are using the pool.
- Do not allow running, pushing or boisterous play on the deck.
- Encourage responsible parents or other adults to give water safety and swimming instruction to youngsters.
- Make sure there is adequate filtration to maintain good clarity of the water.
- Consult the local health department for regulations on pool sanitation.
- Do not allow pool users to bring bottles, glasses or sharp objects to the pool area.
- Observe applicable personal safety rules.
- Always keep gates locked and small children out of the pool area when an adult is not present.

Closing

Following these safety tips can mean the difference between life and death. One moment's forgetfulness, such as forgetting to lock the gate leading to the pool area, can cause a lifetime of regret. Knowing and following swimming safety rules is not just something we should practice. Teach your children to always respect the pool area. A place that can bring joy and laughter can also be a place of great danger.