

Backyard Pool Checklist

Backyard pools, while providing hours of entertainment during the hot summer months, can be dangerous.

Safety Equipment

- Backyard pools should have both a reaching assist and throwing assist with a rope attached. Practice using each of these items.
- Have a first aid kit by the pool. Include sunscreen and a list of emergency telephone numbers in the kit.
- Keep a phone by the pool to call emergency personnel.
- Family members should be trained in Red Cross Water Safety, First Aid and CPR.
- Position a buoy line at the shallow end – at least one foot before the deep end drop-off.

Fencing

- Many municipalities require fencing surrounding a pool. Be sure that you meet the municipal requirements.
- Ideally, fencing should be at least 6 feet high and surround the pool completely (do not include the house as part of the enclosure).
- Gates should be self-latching and self-closing so the gate is not inadvertently left open. Consider self-locking mechanisms.

Diving

- Few backyard pools are safe for diving – ensure sufficient depth for the entire path on slides or dives.
- Feet-first entries should be encouraged on all slides.
- No one should ever dive into an above-ground pool.

Chemicals

- Store your pool chemicals in clearly labelled, childproof containers.
- Keep them out of children's reach, preferably in a locked area.

Pool Rules

- Children should only swim when supervised by an adult.
- Pool covers: completely remove before any swimmer enters the water.
- Play with care – don't push or jump on others. Even the friendliest "dunking" game is dangerous.
- Walk, don't run, on the pool deck.
- Keep your head! Feet-first entries only.
- Alcohol and pools don't mix.
- Pool deck should be kept free of debris and toys.
- Only plastic cups should be allowed on the pool deck.
- Gates to the pool must be closed at all times.