



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH County of Riverside

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN NO. 107-15-DES

DROWNING PREVENTION TIPS



**POOL AREA
KEEP GATE CLOSED**



Children and water can be a fatal combination. Unintentional drowning is one of the leading causes of death to children ages 1 to 4 in the United States. Drowning is fast and silent. Fortunately, drowning deaths are 100% preventable. The Department routinely inspects all public and semi-public pools, spas and water features. The Riverside County Department of Environmental Health recommends the following tips to keep children safe around swimming pools and prevent them from drowning.

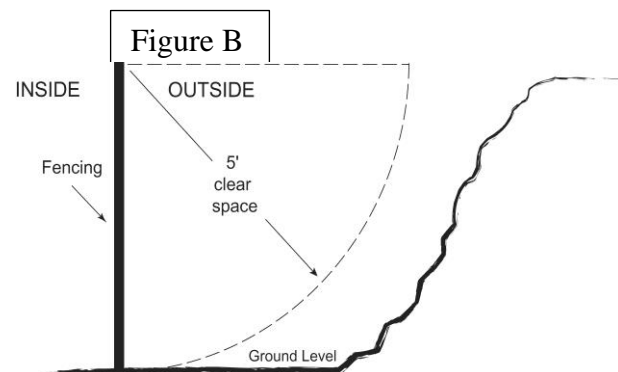
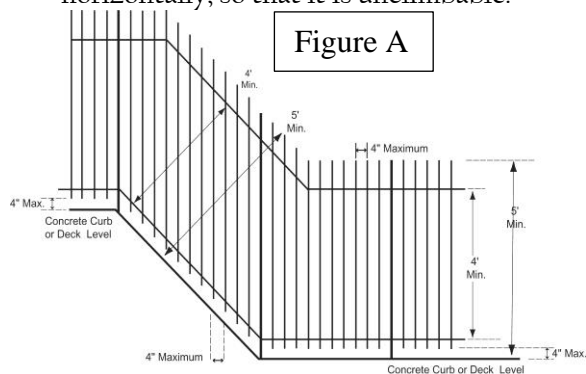
Supervise Your Child

Whether you are at a commercial pool or at a residential pool make sure you watch your child in and around the water. Ensure that the adult or “water watcher” is someone who knows how to swim and is free of distractions (cell phones, electronic devices, books, etc.). Always stay close enough to reach out and touch young children in the pool area at all times. Floatation devices and floating toys shall not take the place of watching your child!

Install an Approved Enclosure

Install a four-sided pool fence that separates the house and play area from the pool enclosure to prevent a child from accidentally wandering next to the pool and falling in.

- The enclosure shall be at least 5 feet high as measured from the outside (depicted in Figures A and B below).
- Openings, holes or gaps in or under the enclosure, doors and/or gates shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere. The enclosure shall be constructed over concrete or other hard and permanent material.
- The enclosure shall be designed and constructed so that it cannot be readily climbed by small children. Horizontal and diagonal member designs, which might serve as a ladder for small children, are prohibited. Horizontal members shall be spaced at least 48 inches apart. No planters or other structures that can be climbed shall be permitted within 5 feet of the outside of the pool enclosure or within a 5 foot arc as depicted in Figure B. The area 5 feet outside of the pool enclosure shall be a common area open to the public.
- Chain link may be used for fencing provided that the openings are not greater than 1 ¾ inches measured horizontally, so that it is unclimbable.



OFFICES IN: RIVERSIDE, BLYTHE, CORONA, HEMET, INDIO, MURRIETA AND PALM SPRINGS

For more information call (888) 722-4234

Department Web Site – www.rivcoeh.org

Close a Gate-Save a Child

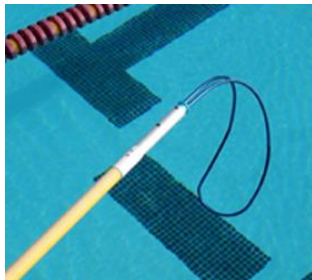
Gates and doors shall be equipped with self-closing and self-latching devices.

- The self-latching device shall keep the gate or door securely closed.
- Install gates and doors to open outward away from pool.
- Gate-opening hardware (door knobs, handles, latched, etc.) shall be located 42-44 inches above the deck or walkway to prevent small children from grabbing them.
- Gates and doors shall be capable of being locked during times when the pool is not being used.
- Close gates and ensure that it is latched after you leave the pool area and ensure you are not letting a child who is unattended into the pool area.

Provide Safety Equipment

Having safety equipment that is easily accessible will help you quickly assist a child in distress in the pool.

- Provide a 12 foot rescue pole with an attached body hook.
- Provide life ring with rope attached that is long enough to span the maximum width of the pool.



Rescue pole with body hook



Life ring with rope

Learn Infant and Child CPR

If you find a child unconscious in a pool call 911 and begin CPR as soon as possible. Every second counts! The quicker you can respond and start CPR on a child the greater the chances of their survival.

- Learn CPR and get certified every 2 years.
- Contact American Heart Association to find a CPR class near you.
http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/CPRAndECC/CPR_UCM_001118_SubHomePage.jsp

For more information on public swimming pool inspections and State guidelines please visit:
www.rivcoceh.org

For more information on how you can protect your children from a water related injury please visit:
<http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Water-Safety/waterinjuries-factsheet.html>

*Document available in an alternate format upon request