

DROWNING PREVENTION

Drownings are the third leading cause of unintentional, injury-related deaths worldwide for all ages. An average of 10 children die from drowning every day in the United States. Drowning is fast, silent, and a real threat for all ages, not just children. Fortunately, drowning deaths are 100% preventable. While swimming pools are often a place of recreation and fun, it is important to take precautions to facilitate safety both in and around swimming pools.



REQUIRED FOR PERMITTED POOLS

ENCLOSURES MUST HAVE...

- Fencing at least 5 feet high with a 5-foot clearance around the exterior of the enclosure
- Openings less than 4 inches in and under the enclosure
- Chain link horizontal openings less than 1 3/4 inches
- At least 48 inches between horizontal bars in the fencing design to prevent climbing

GATES & DOORS MUST...

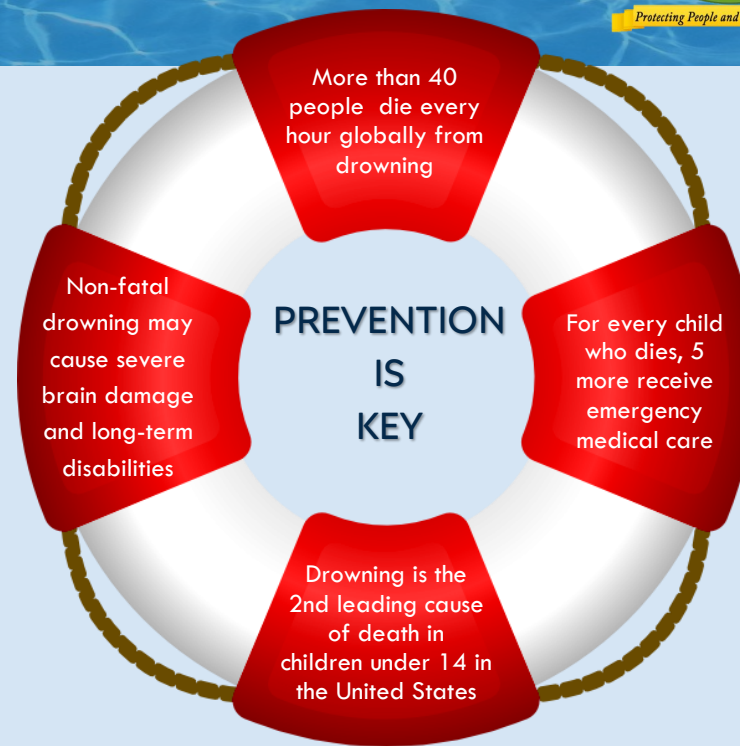
- Self-close and self-latch
- Open outward, away from the pool
- Have handles/latches 42-44 inches above the deck
- Be capable of being locked during times not used
- Have a "Keep Closed" sign posted to the exterior side at an easily visible location

SAFETY EQUIPMENT MUST INCLUDE...

- A 12-foot fixed-length rescue pole with a securely attached body hook
- A CPR sign with diagram and instructions
- A life ring with attached rope able to span the pool width
- An emergency sign with the name and address of the pool and the phone number of the nearest hospital
- A sign with the emergency telephone number 911

ADDITIONAL MEASURES MUST INCLUDE...

- Water clear enough to easily see the bottom of the pool at all times (the main drain must be easily visible)
- Adequate lighting in or around the pool. If adequate lighting is not installed, do not allow use after dark
- Secure main drain and suction covers
- No gaps around or water inside light fixtures
- A 4-foot unobstructed perimeter around the pool



RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR PATRON SAFETY



SUPERVISION

- Designate an adult to supervise all swimmers
- Never swim alone, regardless of age or ability
- Always keep young children close enough to reach



SAFETY SKILLS

- Formal swim lessons
- CPR certification
- Learn to identify warning signs of swimmer distress



SAFETY DEVICES

- Only use proper safety devices, such as a properly fitted life jacket
- Never use toys or swimming aids such as water wings, pool noodles, inner tubes, or kick boards as safety devices