

Children Drown without a Sound...



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Informational Resources:

US Consumer Product
Safety Commission
www.cpsc.gov

American Academy of
Pediatrics
www.aap.org

Safe Kids Worldwide
www.safekids.org

Dept of Agriculture, Trade
& Consumer Protection
www.datcp.state.wi.us

Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death in children under the age of 14. The majority of drownings and near-drownings occur in residential swimming pools and in open water sites. However, children can drown in as little as one inch of water and are therefore at risk of drowning in wading pools, bathtubs, buckets, diaper pails, toilets, spas and hot tubs.

Keeping children safe around water requires multiple layers of protection.

Injury Facts

In the United States:

- In 2004, 761 children ages 14 and under died as a result of unintentional drowning. Children ages 4 and under accounted for more than 80 percent of home drownings.
- On average, 3,600 injuries occur to children ages 14 and under due to near-drowning incidents.
- 40% of drownings and near-drownings occur on Saturdays and Sundays with 62% occurring between the months of May and August.

The Risks

- Children ages 4 and under have the highest drowning death rate.
- Male children have a drowning rate twice that of female children.
- Children in families with low-income are at greater risk from non-pool drownings.
- Most children who drown in swimming pools were:
 - ✓ last seen in the home
 - ✓ had been missing from sight for less than five minutes
 - ✓ were in the care of one or both parents at the time of the drowning.

Prevention Tips

Know how to prevent, recognize and respond to emergencies. Knowledge is a powerful tool for combating these tragedies so talk with your family about the safety tips on the back and learn CPR. Knowing how and where children drown, as well as the concrete steps you can take to avoid danger, may make a life-and-death difference in your family.

Drowning is a Silent Killer, Supervise with your Eyes!



Pool & Beach Safety

Always watch your children. Never assume that someone else is watching them, even when lifeguards are present. If your child is missing, check the pool or lake first. Go to the edge and scan the entire area, bottom and surface. Every second counts.

- Young children do not splash, cry or call for help.
- Teach children to always swim with a buddy, never alone.
- Teach children not to reach into the water for toys, ask a grown-up for help.
- Fences around home pools are a safe measure, but not a guarantee.
- Do not rely on substitutes. The use of floatation devices and inflatable toys cannot replace parental supervision.
- Children should learn to swim. Enroll them in swim lessons taught by qualified instructors, when they are ready, usually after age 4. However, lessons do not make a child “drown-proof”.



Home Safety

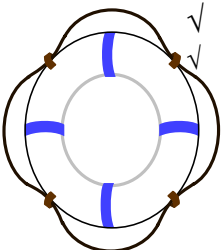
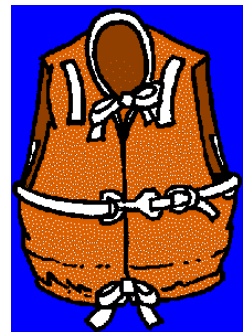
In the time it takes to cross the room for a towel (10 seconds) a child in the bathtub can become submerged; answer the phone (2 minutes), that child can lose consciousness; sign for a package at the front door (4 – 6 minutes), that same child can sustain permanent brain damage.

- Never leave babies or toddlers alone near toilets, bathtubs, or buckets of water.
- Always keep a child within arms reach around water, especially in bathtubs.
- Empty all buckets, containers and wading pools immediately after use. Store them upside-down and out of the child’s reach.
- Keep the cover on your hot tub securely locked when not in use. Children can easily slip under the cover and drown.

Boating Safety:

Older children are more likely to drown in open water sites, such as lakes, rivers and oceans. Parents must establish non-negotiable water safety rules and enforce them consistently. Children should be trained in safety behavior even before they are skilled swimmers. Swimming lessons are an important step, but they do not make the child “drown-proof”.

- Everyone should always wear an approved lifejacket that fits securely when participating in boating activities and all other water sports.
- Teach older children the following:
 - ✓ To tell someone where you are going, when you will be back and to take a cell phone.
 - ✓ No diving unless you know proper diving techniques and the water is over 9 feet deep.
 - ✓ Watch for dangerous weather & water conditions. Never mix boating with alcohol.



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