

The 2019 Kids Water Safety Guide

In the summertime, kids water safety becomes top of mind for parents. Here's your family's guide to staying safe from common dangers associated with pools, fountains and lakes.

Why is Kids Water Safety Important?

For most kids, water is fun and fascinating. Parents are rightfully concerned and cautious when water is near because kids aren't fully aware of the dangers. Kids have a higher risk of drowning in very little water – whether at home or playing on vacation. As you think about water safety, here are a few recent facts and statistics to keep in mind.

- Drowning is one of the leading causes of death for kids. 12 percent of drownings in 2017 were kids ages four and younger. – [National Safety Council](#)
 - Infant drowning deaths often happen in bathtubs and large buckets. – [Safe Kids Worldwide](#)
 - 87 percent of drowning fatalities for children younger than five years old are in home pools or hot tubs. – [Red Cross](#)
 - Young children can drown in only two inches of water – including toilets, inflatable pools and fountains. – [Kids Health](#)
 - Most drowning and submersion injuries for children younger than five are associated with pools. – [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#)
-

Water Safety Rules and Regulations to Consider

The [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) (U.S. CPSC) outlines the best safety barrier guidelines for home pools and hot tubs. For your safety, you'll also want to be aware of [municipal and state pool barrier laws](#) before installing a pool – including any pool signage and fencing requirements. Specific laws vary state by state, but pool fences and gates should always be strongly considered, even if not required by law. The U.S. CPSC outlines these pool barrier guidelines to keep in mind.

- The pool's barrier should completely surround the pool.
- If local laws do not define a required height, barriers should be at least four feet high. Each entrance should have door alarms and self-closing doors with self-latching, child-proof locks.
- The space between each slat should not exceed four inches. There should be no more than four inches of space between the ground and the bottom of the pool barrier.
- Install the appropriate pool and drain covers to reduce the risk of entrapment and drowning from powerful suction.

It's also important to be aware of pool suction entrapment and draining systems. In 2002, Virginia Graeme Baker drowned while being trapped by a hot tub draining suction. As a result, the [Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act](#) was passed to outline requirements for compliant drain covers and safety vacuum release systems (SVRS) to reduce the risk of suction entrapment related injuries and deaths. Make sure your safety drain covers and draining systems meet the VGB Act and CPSC requirements for better pool safety. And lastly, get familiar with any swimming programs and requirements in your area from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDCP\)](#) for the latest on water safety.

Go to [safety.com](https://www.safety.com) to read the original article
<https://www.safety.com/kids-water-safety/>