

# WATER SAFETY AROUND THE HOUSE



**You'd be surprised at the number of drownings that happen around the home. It's potentially one of the most dangerous environments and it's the one in which we and our children spend the most time. A few minutes reading this sheet and following up the advice provided, could be life-saving.**

## 3 Simple steps to making your home a safer place

### Step 1 - Identify drowning hazards

If you have any of these at your home, they are potential drowning hazards.

- **Outdoor water features:**  
swimming pool, wading pool, hot tub, spa, fish pond, bird bath
- **Indoor water containers:**  
bath tub, washing machine, laundry tub, aquarium, kitchen sink, toilet, nappy bucket
- **Occasional water containers:**  
sand pit shell, garden bucket, tubs, Esky, rubbish bin

### Step 2 - Know the frightening facts

- Drowning is one of the leading causes of death in children 0-4 years of age - and babies can drown in as little as 1 inch of water.
- More than 12 children under the age of five drown in Australia every year.
- A parent is usually nearby when a child drowns.

### Step 3 - Eliminate the risks

There are two main factors involved in child drowning. The first is the presence of an accessible hazard, the second is an absence of supervision.

We would like to thank; Kidsafe, Royal Life Saving Society, Kidsafe Victoria and splashmagazine.com.au for data used in these information sheets.



### Reduce Hazards

- Ensure all pools are properly fenced with safety gates (this is a legal requirement) and water features are covered with firm mesh or grating
- Never leave anything that could be used to climb on leaning against a pool fence
- Remove pool toys and floating objects immediately after use - they attract children
- Empty inflatable or portable pools immediately after use and store them upside down, out of children's reach
- Never leave a child alone in the bath - if you must leave the room, take them with you, wet and dripping!
- Empty bath tubs immediately after use
- Empty all tubs, buckets, containers immediately after use and store them upside down
- Keep toilet lids closed and use toilet seat locks
- Keep doors to bathrooms and laundries closed

### Ensure Effective Supervision

- Always make one designated adult responsible for fully supervising children in backyard swimming pools, especially at family gatherings and parties
- Have a formal responsibility transfer between designated adults when they need to take a break
- Learn CPR and resuscitation techniques
- Give young children 100% of your attention when they are near or around water

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