

Most children who drown in backyard pools gain access from the house.

SHALLOW AREA



Install separate child-resistant locks well above a child's reach with accompanying audible alarms on all doors leading to the pool. Set up at least two additional barriers (e.g., two fences or a fence and an alarm system).

Evaluate the pool to determine if access is limited and that safeguards are in place. Never rely on a single measure to prevent young children from getting into the pool. Use multiple barriers or strategies to restrict access.

Fences: Most backyards with pools are fenced along the perimeter of the yard. Ideally, another fence isolates the pool from the yard and the house. Check local bylaws concerning minimum height and other requirements.

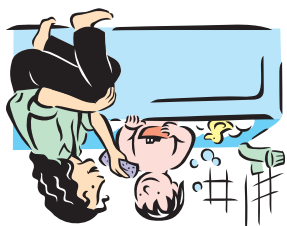
Alarms: If an additional fence is not feasible, protect the pool area with an alarm. Many types are available, including beam alarms that encompass the pool and alarms triggered by water motion. Never rely on alarms alone. They are a secondary "layer of protection."

Gates: Ensure the gate conforms to local bylaws. The latch should be positioned well above ground level and equipped with a 2-phase opening mechanism that self-locks. Use a combination lock rather than a lock and key (and advise a neighbour of the combination in case of emergency). Keep the gate locked when no supervisor is present.

Be vigilant. Many children who drown do so because parents or caregivers lose sight of them for a short period of time.

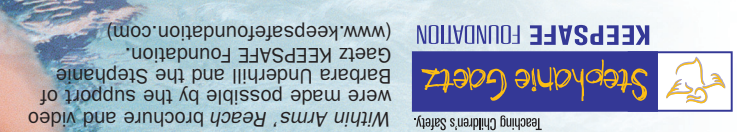
Either fence off the hazard or fence in the child.

- Keep hot tubs covered when not in use.
- Fence off natural or man-made bodies of water on your property.



Restrict access
If you can't eliminate the water hazard, restrict access to it.

The Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters has provided financial support for the printing and distribution of this information. www.mbsaferwaters.ca
Registered Charity No. 119129047 RR0001
© Lifesaving Society and Water Smart are registered trademarks of The Royal Life Saving Society Canada.



Within Arms' Reach video features former World's Pairs Champion figure skater Barbara Underhill who lost her 8-month-old daughter Stephanie in a backyard pool tragedy. In this 11-minute video, Barbara shares her insights with backyard pool owners who have young children of their own or whose family and guests use their pool.



Backyard Pool Safety Guidelines provide detailed information for backyard pool owners and users about what steps to take to minimize the risks of drowning and water-related injury. The Lifesaving Society is a national, charitable organization working to prevent drowning and water-related injury. If you have a pool, you should purchase these Water Smart® resources from the Society.

Want more information?

WITHIN ARMS' REACH
Water Smart
Advice for parents



Drowning is a big problem in Canada

Drowning is the second leading cause of preventable death for children under 10 years of age. Children under 5 are most at risk.

Most toddlers drown in backyard pools.

Their natural curiosity combined with an almost magnetic attraction to water means they have a high risk of drowning anytime they're near water — natural or man-made.



Drowning is a silent killer

Drowning victims rarely call or signal for help because they can't keep their head above water. When they manage it, inhaling air while calling for help — is their priority.

Drowning can happen in seconds

Drowning can take as little as 10 seconds and occur in just inches of water . . . in bathtubs, wading pools, wells, even buckets.

Never leave a child alone near the water. Don't be distracted by a ringing phone, a doorbell or another child.

Whenever your child is near water, you should be near your child.

Drownings are preventable

Drownings involving toddlers can be prevented if parents or caregivers are within arms' reach around water.

- **Designate a backyard pool lifeguard.** An adult should supervise whenever children are using the pool. If you must be absent for a moment, designate another adult to replace you. If necessary, close the pool until someone can assume supervision duties.
- **Stay tub-side** until all the water is drained and you have removed your child from the tub. Toddlers can easily slip below the surface and drown in inches of water in just seconds. Most bathtub drownings occur because youngsters were left alone "just for a moment."
- **Drain bathtubs** when they are not in use. Empty unattended wading pools and buckets of water and turn them over.
- At the beach or at the pool, if you are not in the water with them, **children who can't swim should wear a lifejacket** or personal flotation device (PFD).

Get the training



If you have a pool, cottage or camp, you need to be your family's lifeguard.

Your kids' water safety education is not complete until they **earn the Bronze Medallion.** Enroll them in Lifesaving Society courses so that they learn how to be Water Smart® before they get in too deep.

If you live or play around water, you need to learn basic first aid and how to do CPR.

Contact your local recreation center for courses for kids and adults.

The Lifesaving Society has been educating Canadians since awarding its first Bronze Medallion in 1896.

