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Pool Safety - Simple Steps Save Lives

The *Pool Safety* campaign is a call-to-action for consumers and industry to adopt additional proven water safety steps and join a national conversation about pool and spa safety by sharing best practices and other life-saving information.

The greatest water safety assurance in swimming pools and spas comes from adopting and practicing as many water safety steps as possible. Adding that extra safety step in and around the water can make all the difference. *You can never know which safety measure will save a life – until it does.*

The proven water safety steps can be organized into three categories:

- Behavioral – actions that relate to personal responsibility and action
- Knowledge-based – actions that relate to skills such as swimming, CPR and related water safety activities
- Equipment – actions that relate to barriers such as fences and safety equipment such as compliant drain covers

The following list outlines the water safety steps that you can and should take to help keep your family safe.

Behavioral: stay close, be alert, and watch children in and around the pool

- Always watch your children and never leave them unattended around the pool and spa
- Teach children basic water safety tips
- Avoid entrapment by keeping children away from pool drains, pipes and other openings
- Have a phone close by at all times when you or your family are using a pool or spa
- If a child is missing, look for them in the pool or spa first
- Share safety instructions with family, friends and neighbors

Knowledge-based: learn and practice water safety skills

- Learn how to swim
- Learn to perform CPR on children and adults; update those skills regularly
- Understand the basics of life saving so that you can assist in a pool emergency



Equipment: have the appropriate equipment

- Install a fence around the perimeter of the pool and spa of at least four feet in height
- Use self-closing and self-latching gates; ask your neighbors and community groups to do the same at all residential pools
- If your house serves as the fourth side of a fence around a pool, install a door alarm on the door from the house to the pool and always use it!
- Ensure any pool and spa you use has compliant drain covers; ask if you do not know
- Maintain pool and spa covers in good working order and consider installing a pool alarm
- Have life-saving equipment such as life rings or reaching poles available for easy use

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