



Swimming pool safety

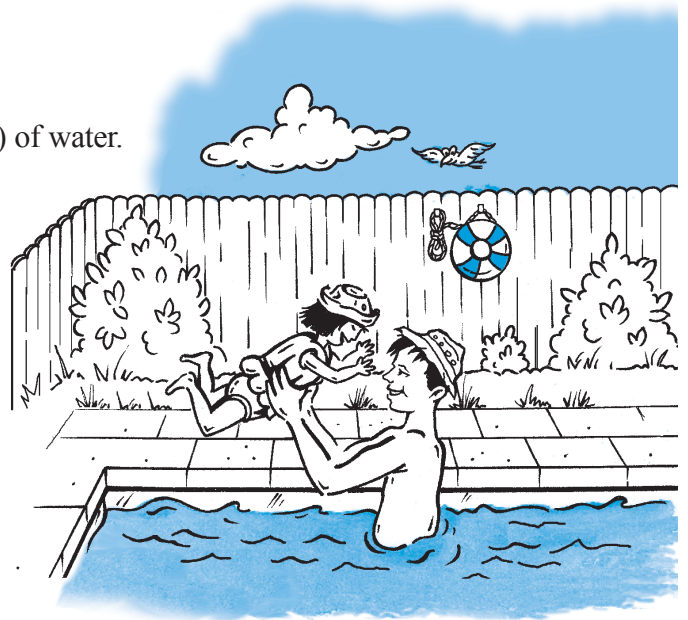
Each year, many children drown in backyard swimming pools and in small kiddie pools.

Children are in danger because:

- They like to play in water.
- They move quickly.
- They can drown in only a few centimetres (1 inch) of water.

Why do these drownings happen?

1. Sometimes the pool is not fenced in all the way around.
2. Sometimes the gate to the backyard is not shut all the way or locked.
3. Sometimes a young child gets to the pool through a patio door or garage door that opens into the backyard.



Safety Tips

- Check with your town or city to find out the rules for putting up a fence around your pool.
- Build a fence and a gate that will keep children away from your pool.
- Keep the gate locked at all times.
- ALWAYS have an adult watching children in and around the pool.
- Children under the age of 3 and children who cannot swim must wear a life jacket or PFD (personal floatation device).
- Send children to swimming and water safety lessons.
- Make sure lifesaving equipment and a first aid kit are handy.
- Take a course on pool safety, first aid and lifesaving skills (such as CPR).
- Have emergency phone numbers listed at the telephone closest to the pool.
- Make sure toys, garden furniture and tools are not near the pool fence. Children can climb up on these things to get into the pool.
- To learn more about water safety and learn-to-swim programs, please call your local Canadian Red Cross Society, or the local Branch Office of the Lifesaving Society.

For more information contact Product Safety, Health Canada, at:

Vancouver, British Columbia (604) 666-5003	Hamilton, Ontario (905) 572-2845	Quebec City, Quebec (418) 648-4327
Edmonton, Alberta (780) 495-2626	Toronto, Ontario (416) 973-4705	Moncton, New Brunswick (506) 851-6638
Calgary, Alberta (403) 292-4677	Ottawa, Ontario (613) 952-1014	Halifax, Nova Scotia (902) 426-8300
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (306) 975-4502	Montreal, Quebec (514) 283-5488	St. John's, Newfoundland (709) 772-4050
Winnipeg, Manitoba (204) 983-5490	Longueuil, Quebec (450) 646-1353	

