



“All child drownings are preventable. Young children are the most vulnerable and almost always drown during lapses in adult supervision. Sadly, just a few moments of inattention can have the most tragic consequences. These tips can help save a life.”

Principal Commissioner, Cheryl Vardon

SWIMMING POOLS

- ✓ Maintain your pool fencing and gates
- ✓ Teach your children and family to keep pool gates closed and check they are in working order
- ✓ Always be within arms reach of infants or young children when they are in or near water
- ✓ At parties with children, have a capable adult as ‘Designated Child Supervisor.’ Use a special hat that is passed on when another adult takes over
- ✓ Empty inflatable pools after every use
- ✓ Teach your child to swim
- ✓ Learn CPR – it saves lives!

Supervisors should be 15 or older, capable and not affected by alcohol.

BATH TIME

- ✓ Have a bath time routine. It’s a special time to be together
- ✓ Get everything you need ready first
- ✓ Be present or keep the bathroom door closed when you’re filling up the bath tub
- ✓ Use the least amount of water you need so that it is not too deep
- ✓ If you must leave the room, take your child/children with you

Never

- ✗ Prop pool gates open
- ✗ Leave furniture or toys near the pool fence – children love to climb!
- ✗ Leave a young child in the bath or shower unattended to answer the door or prepare dinner
- ✗ Rely on other children to supervise
- ✗ Relax your pool rules – rules keep kids safe!

AROUND THE HOUSE

- ✓ Empty buckets, eskies and anything else that holds water or other liquids

MOVING HOUSE

- ✓ Be especially vigilant of swimming pools and water hazards in the first months in a new property, including neighbourhood pools

ACREAGE AND RURAL PROPERTIES

- ✓ Have a fenced play area and be very clear with your children about where it is safe to play
- ✓ Teach your children about ‘no go’ areas, explain the dangers and be consistent in never letting them play nearby
- ✓ Set up barriers to prevent access to unsafe areas, like dams or creeks

AT THE BEACH OR RIVER

- ✓ Always swim between the flags
- ✓ Be close or hold young children
- ✓ Keep your eyes on older children in the surf
- ✓ Use life jackets or personal flotation devices (PFDs) when children are on boats, kayaks or other watercraft

IF A YOUNG CHILD IS MISSING

- ✓ Always check the pool and nearby water hazards first. **Seconds count!**

**A child drowns silently.
There won’t be screams.
There won’t be splashing.**

