

Pool Safety Tips

Safety should be the first priority for any pool owner, whether you have an Olympic-size showpiece or a tiny kiddie pool, says Doug Gill, product safety officer for Health Canada.

"Children can drown in only a very small amount of water, just a few centimeters," says Gill.

He adds there should always be an adult present when kids are swimming.

Here's a list of safety tips for pool owners from Health Canada:

- ✓ 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 three and children who cannot swim must always 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).
- ✓ List emergency phone numbers at the telephone closest to the pool.
- ✓ Make sure toys, garden furniture and tools are kept well away from the fence. Children can climb up on these things to get into the pool.
- ✓ To learn more about water safety and learn-to-swim programs, call your local Canadian Red Cross at (416) 480-2500 or go to www.redcross.ca, or the local branch office of the Lifesaving Society at (416) 490-8844 or visit the web site at www.lifesaving.ca

SOURCE: HEALTH CANADA