

Florida Swimming Pool Association
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Memorial Day is the first holiday of the summer and with the warm weather this means families will be using swimming pools! Pools are great fun and exercise when safety is kept in mind. The Florida Swimming Pool Association encourages all pool owners to keep their safety measures implemented and up to current building code.

Some of the more recent requirements for new pools include an approved barrier and door/window alarms or an approved pool safety cover. Also, new drain covers have been designed to help prevent circulation/ suction entrapment. Owners should change their drain cover for one that is certified and stamped with the ASME symbol, "ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007" or "VGB 2008."

One imperative safety measure is to watch your children. Whether it is an inground pool, a lake, an aboveground pool, the beach, or a blowup kiddie pool, a responsible, undistracted adult must be in charge. This designated pool watcher keeps their eyes on the pool and children nonstop. If they need to go inside they assign another adult or everyone gets out of the water.

Watching your children is just as important when everyone is indoors. Children are curious, creative and innovative; they can quickly figure out how to get outside and water can pique their interest. For this reason it is important to have several layers of protection between children and the pool.

Safety devices that are available include a mesh barrier fence, self-closing and self-latching gate, alarms – for doors/ windows and for detection in and around the pool, personal immersion alarms, certified safety cover, and life rings and shepherd's hooks.

Pool safety is still important when there are not children living in the home. Visiting friends or relatives may have children or neighborhood kids may wander into your yard.

In addition to installing devices, practicing safety rules is a way to enjoy a summer in the water.

- Learn to swim
- Learn CPR
- Keep emergency phone numbers posted in the pool area
- Keep your safety barriers and layers of protection in place at all times
- Do not leave toys near a pool, they can attract children
- Do not leave objects near the fence that a child could climb over
- No running or rough play
- Go in at the first sign of thunderstorms
- Have a designated pool watcher to keep an eye on swimmers at all times
- Never swim alone, this means adults too
- Do not use a pool/ spa while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Do not use glass containers around the pool
- Keep the pool area well lit if swimming after dark
- No diving in shallow water and always steer your dive up
- Never stand or play on a pool cover
- Read and follow labels and instructions when using and storing pool chemicals

Consumers can find pool safety and maintenance information by visiting FloridaPoolPro.com.

The Florida Swimming Pool Association is a trade association for the pool and spa industry in Florida. There are approximately 600 member businesses in 16 Chapters across the state. Members are required to abide by a code of ethics and to be properly licensed and insured. FSPA provides the industry with access to continuing education courses, information on current trends and issues, an arbitration program and government relations representation. FSPA is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

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