

The five types of circulation/ suction entrapment

1.

Hair

Hair entrapment occurs when a person's hair becomes entangled in a drain cover and can't be pulled free. 28.7% of cases.

2.

Limb

Limb entrapment occurs when an arm or leg becomes stuck in a drain. The cover must be broken or missing for this to occur, but it does not require suction. 25.6% of cases.*

3.

Body

Body entrapment occurs when a drain is completely covered by any part of a person's body and suction holds them in place. 29.8% of cases.*

4.

Evisceration / Disembowelment

This occurs when someone sits on a drain that has suction, and a broken or missing cover, and injuries or disembowelment occurs. This can occur in a fraction of a second. 3.1% of cases.*

5.

Mechanical

Mechanical entrapment occurs when an item on the person becomes entangled or stuck on a drain or drain cover (i.e. jewelry, bathing suit). 5.6% of cases.*

What you should do....

To ensure your pool is safe:

- Ask a licensed professional to inspect all suction outlets. Ask that drain covers be 2007 ASME A112.19.8 certified and wall vacuum fittings be self closing/self latching.
- Replace any broken covers, missing covers or un-certified covers with 2007 ASME A112.19.8 certified drain covers. Have a licensed pool professional inspect your pool. If there is a single drain, retrofit it in accordance with the ANSI/APSP 7 standard. Options include converting the drain to a single unblockable suction outlet or installing a cover/grate certified to the 2007 ASME A112.19.8 standard and at least one of the following: an additional suction outlet(s), gravity flow system, vent system, safety vacuum release system (SVRS), converted suction outlet to return inlet, and/or disable the suction outlet and provide a skimmer capable of the full system flow.
- Post a list of rules and require anyone entering the pool to read the rules. Require everyone not to play with drains.
- Periodically have a licensed professional evaluate and, if necessary, maintain all drains and outlets.

When you have a pool built:

- Speak with the pool company to ensure they are knowledgeable on suction entrapment and will build your pool to the ANSI/APSP 7 standard as required by the Florida Building Code.
- Only use a properly licensed company.
- Discuss and understand your circulation, drain and drain cover options.
- Federal requirements say that as of Dec. 20, 2008 only 2007 ASME A112.19.8 drain covers can be sold in the U.S. Request only 2007 ASME A112.19.8 certified covers be installed.

When using any swimming pool:

- If any drain cover is broken or missing, do not enter or allow anyone else to enter the pool. Notify the pool owner or call your pool professional immediately to make necessary repairs.
- Do not allow anyone, child or adult, to play with or sit on any suction outlet (drain) or wall vacuum fittings.
- Pull long hair back into a ponytail or a bathing cap.
- Remove jewelry before entering the pool.



*Information was provided by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Percentages were calculated based on the 195 cases reported to the CPSC for 1985-2007. In the remaining 7.2% of cases, the type of entrapment is unknown.

Other Pool Safety Tips:

- Always designate a pool watcher. This must be a responsible adult who will keep both eyes on the pool and swimmers.
- No diving in shallow water and always steer your dive up.
- No running or rough play around the pool.
- Go inside at the first sign of thunder storms.
- No glass/ breakable containers by the pool.
- Never swim alone, this means adults too.
- Don't use the pool while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Wear sunscreen, and reapply!
- Keep up your safety fence, keep all doors and windows locked and watch all kids, even when the pool is not in use.
- Read and follow all labels and instructions when using or storing pool chemicals.
- Keep emergency phone numbers posted in the pool area.
- Always make sure the pool and pool area are lit when used after dusk.
- Never stand or play on a pool cover.

Splash says, "For fun in pools, follow the rules!"



Circulation/ Suction Entrapment Safety

A visual guide to drains

Examples of some 2007 ASME A112.19.8 certified drain covers.



*Image provided by Hayward.

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*Image provided by Aquastar.

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