



## Did you know...

- A child can drown in as little as 2.5 cm (1 inch) of water.
- All children are at risk of drowning, especially those under age 5, because they are:
  - attracted to water
  - do not understand the dangers.
- Children from ages 5 to 14 are at risk because they may:
  - overestimate their own skills
  - underestimate the depth of the water.

### Checklist for Drowning Prevention:

- Are your fences and gates in good repair and do they meet the requirements of your local by-law?
- Does your gate self-close and self-latch properly?
- Is the release mechanism at the top of the gate?
- Is responsible adult supervision at poolside whenever children are in or near the water?
- Are all family members up-to-date with swimming lessons and first aid instruction?
- Is safety equipment at poolside in good repair?
- Are emergency numbers and a phone at poolside at all times?

This information is brought to you by the following community partners. Contact them to follow up and learn more about this important topic.



healthunit.com



Pool & Hot Tub  
Council of Canada

poolcouncil.ca

## Pool Safety Drowning Prevention



## Protect your family by the pool

Keep your family and  
friends safe by reviewing  
and following these pool  
safety guidelines.



## Drowning can be prevented

Drowning is a silent danger and the second leading cause of death for Canadian children.

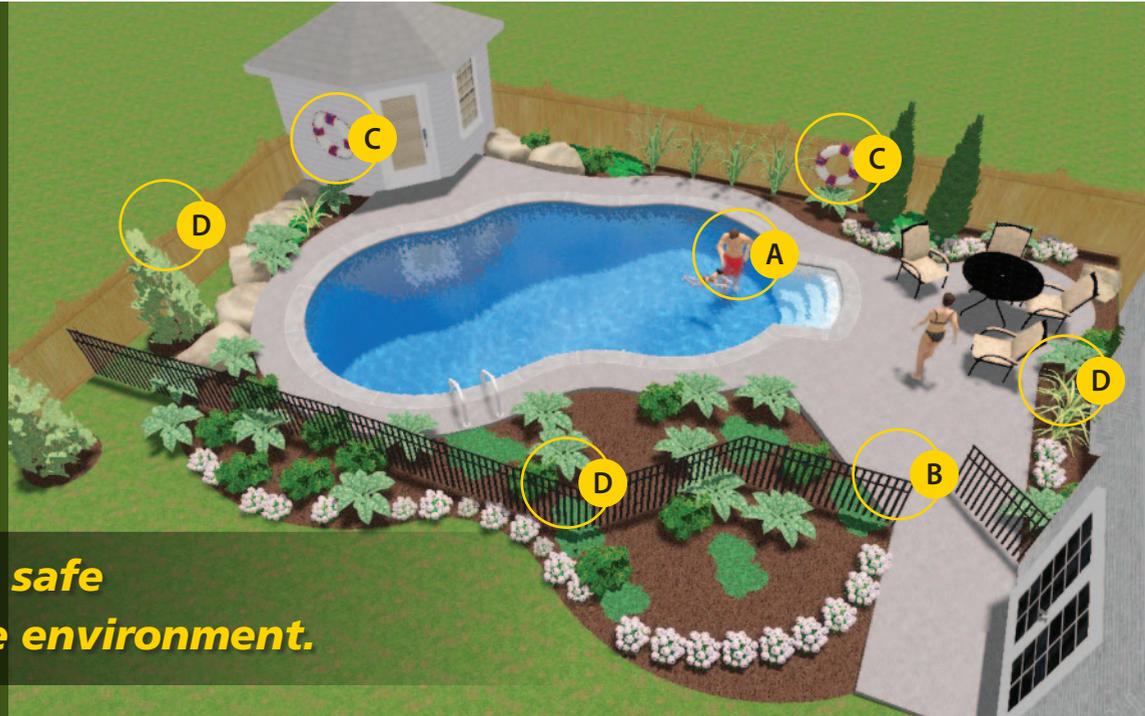
Drowning can happen in an instant but affects a family for a lifetime. A few moments of inattention by a parent or caregiver can result in a child slipping silently under the water without anyone noticing.

Learn all you can to prevent drownings and keep everyone safe around pools.



## Tips for homeowners with backyard pools

## Set up a safe poolside environment.



### In addition to adult supervision...

- Encourage swimming lessons and first aid instruction for family members and caregivers.
- Put young children and weak swimmers in life jackets/personal flotation devices when in or around water.
- Consider additional layers of protection such as alarms, safety covers, and water rescue equipment (e.g. ring buoy, lifeline).
- Encourage walking around the poolside, as running can often lead to slips and falls.
- Discourage the use of alcohol or drugs by adults who are supervising children by the pool.

### A Adult supervision

Adults must be present and close to the pool, ready to assist at any moment. They must always stay within sight and reach of children when in or around pool. Do not allow any distractions to interfere with constant supervision.

### B Self-closing and self-latching gates

The pool gate should be fully closed at all times. It should automatically close and latch itself, with the release mechanism at the top of the gate, out of reach of small children. Do not prop gates open.

### C Safety equipment

Safety equipment should always be poolside and easily accessible. Personal flotation devices and life jackets are not a substitute for adult supervision.

### D Fencing and Barriers

Build a pool fence that meets local by-law requirements. A good way to keep young children safe is to build a four-sided fence/barrier to separate the pool from the rest of the yard. A variety of fencing options are available.

## More about pool fencing

The purpose of pool fencing is to isolate the swimming pool, or yard where the pool is located, by completely enclosing it.

Find out what your municipality defines as a pool; many inflatable pools require proper fencing. It is important to check with your local municipality to find out what by-law requirements will apply to your property.

For example, the City of London's *Swimming Pool Fence By-law PS-5*, requires:

- a fence which is a minimum height of 1.5 metres (4.9 feet);
- gates that are self-closing and self-latching;
- specific gap or opening sizes in the fence depending on the design and style of the fencing used.

Municipalities require a swimming pool fence permit be obtained before installation of the pool. This permit will ensure the municipality conducts an inspection to confirm by-law compliance.

NOTE: This publication is intended to provide general safety information and does not indicate all of the required regulations that apply. Please contact your local municipality to obtain a copy of the by-law(s) that apply to your property.