

# A Swimming Pool Safety Guide from B&B Pool and Spa Center

When you put safety first, your pool will be  
where your best memories are born . . .



Celebrating 46 Years of Excellence



***Your pool is a great asset for your home and the lives  
of the people you care most about . . .***



***“Adult Supervision  
is the best way to  
create your favorite  
memories”***

**Let the joys of pool ownership begin and remain forever**

Your pool is a great asset for your home and the lives of the people you care most about. Included in this guide are some things to consider while making your pool as safe as possible.

**Have a responsible adult on hand as your “Water Watcher”**

Nothing promotes safety better than a responsible adult supervising the activities in your pool. Always have an adult “Water Watcher” watching children in your pool. The “Water Watcher’s” job is to keep an eye on the water at all times, without engaging in any distracting activity such as: phone calls, reading, computer use, cooking, or cleaning. “Water Watchers” should be relieved every 15-30 minutes to remain so fresh.

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# Layers of Protection Checklist

## **Prevention: Your Most Essential Pool Safety Advice**

The layers of protection begin with physical layers to aid in preventing access to the water, such as fences or pool safety covers. Some layers should be built into your pool by a pool professional. Other layers include alarms in the event the physical barriers have been crossed. There are layers intended to help a child in the water, such as swim instruction, proper rescue techniques, and knowing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

### **Perimeter Barriers**

Limiting access to the pool area

### **Access Barriers**

Preventing entry into the pool

### **Safety Equipment**

Drain covers, life preservers, and rescue devices

### **Survival Skills**

Practice and training of aquatic abilities

### **Response Readiness**

Having an action plan in the event of an emergency

## *Layers of Protection 1: Perimeter Barriers*

### **Limit Access to the Pool Area**

A perimeter fence on your property prevents entrance to your pool area. Isolation fencing separates your pool or spa from the rest of your property. Pool safety fences should be over four feet high with gates fitted with childproof latches that shut automatically. You can also use removable mesh fencing to offer a temporary barrier to your pool.

### **Proper Construction of a Pool Safety Fence**

Fences must be non-climbable, and meet your local area's safety codes. Vertical slats should prevent a small child from squeezing between them and horizontal slats must not be climbable. The area around the bottom of the fence should prevent a child from crawling underneath. Keep items that could be used to climb over your fence away from it.





## *Layers of Protection 2: Access Barriers*

### **Prevent Entry Into the Pool**

Access barriers can keep the child from entering the water. Safety covers should be in place whenever your property is unattended. In cold weather states, winter covers protect the pool and people at your home. Safety covers should meet the ASTM International standard F1346-91. Safety nets keep people out of your pool while allowing access for service

### **Be Alerted About a Possible Entry Into the Pool**

Alarms can alert you when a child has ventured in or near your pool. There are many different types of alarms. You can use to improve security around and in the pool. There are window and door alarms that can be installed in your house. Anytime they are opened, the alarm sounds. There are displacement alarms that sound when something breaches the surface of the water. Subsurface alarms placed in the water detect when a child enters the pool. A child can wear an on-body alarm on his or her wrist or ankle. The alarm sounds once it gets wet.

*Layers of  
Protection 3:  
Safety  
Equipment*

**Install The Right Equipment, Drains,  
Pumps, and Pipes For Your Pool**

A CBP knows how to measure the hydraulic requirements of your pool according to its size and water features. Just as it makes sense to have shoes that fit your feet, so too, should your pool builder provide you with the right equipment and materials for your job. Using appropriately sized plumbing, pumps, pipes, and drains will help your equipment run optimally and economically.

**Proper Movement of Water**

Using larger pipes means that your water can cycle through the filtration and heater at a slower rate. Slower water makes for greater safety. The gentle flow of water through your pool allows your equipment to function more efficiently and reduces the risks from suction and entrapment. You may spend a little more at the outset when you build your pool, but the savings you'll see from lower energy use over time will more than justify your initial investment.

## *Layers of Protection 4: Survival Skills*

### **Practice and Training of Aquatic Abilities**

The first and best safety among aquatic skills is swimming. You can start to learn at virtually any age. Swimming instruction is available for children and adults, including babies. That's right, infant swim training teaches babies how to float, call for help and await rescue. This life-saving skill has been used to save tens of thousands of children under the age of three who have fallen into water over their heads.

If you are a pool owner, you'll want to learn and practice water safety. All the barriers in the world can't prevent every possible intrusion into your pool. By employing the layers of protection, you have taken a number of safety-oriented steps to prevent a mishap. The more you know about water safety and first aid the better help you'll be if ever called upon.



*Layers of  
Protection 5:  
Response  
Readiness*

**Pool Safety Toolkit and Action Plan**

The American Red Cross advises you to prepare an action plan. In the calm of the present moment, you can think through your plan and lay out the steps to take. Once you have put the plan together, post it near the pool, and list any special medical conditions of family members. Review your plan with caregivers and family members who watch your children. Inspect your safety toolkit each season and alert any adult charged with water monitoring of its location.

**Necessary Items To Have For Your Pool Safety Toolkit**

- Keep a life-saving ring by the pool
- Have a shepherd's hook at poolside
- A large pair of scissors to cut hair, clothing, or a pool cover
- A first aid kit
- Have a whistle or air horn to sound call for help
- Keep a charged portable phone poolside
- A contact list of important people



### **Manual and Automatic Pool Covers**

Manual and automatic safety pool covers can serve as a barrier for children and animals when your pool is not in use or in the off-season. Covers can also help prevent wear from the elements.

Covers should be inspected regularly for damage and cleanliness. Automatic power safety covers should meet the ASTM F1346-91 safety standard and the manual covers should meet the ASTM F1346 safety standard.

*“Keep your pool area locked and secure whenever you’re not present”*



***Know How to Respond:  
Learn basic water  
rescue skills, first  
aid and CPR***

### **Adult Supervision**

As always, the number one safety protection around the pool is adult supervision. Whenever there are children in or near the pool, you should have a responsible adult overseeing the situation.

If you're hosting a party with lots of children, be sure to have, at all times, at least one responsible adult stationed close by as your "Water Watcher." The best safety is prevention, but should an accident ever happen, having an adult present who can step into the situation as a lifeguard is essential.

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If you have any questions about pool safety, need a pool inspection, or any other concerns about recreational water, please call us at 888.716.5623



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