

Pool Safety

Keep children
safe around
pools and spas
with these
helpful hints



ipswich.qld.gov.au/seal



SUMMERTIME, WATER, SWIMMING AND POOLS GO HAND IN HAND

Pools are everywhere, and more and more families are using their pool/spa, attending pool parties with family and friends, or visiting their local swim centre or beach.

Along with all the fun we have while swimming, water safety should be our number one priority.

Drowning is one of the leading causes of death for children under the age of five in Queensland.

Active adult supervision, swimming lessons, learning basic CPR and having compliant pool and spa fencing can save lives.



A child or toddler can drown within 20 seconds, in as little as 50mm of water.

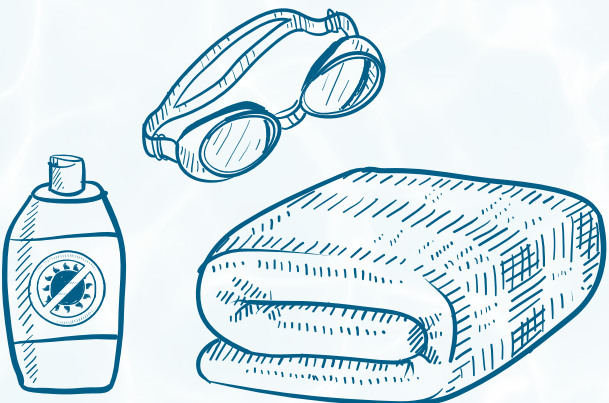
When a child drowns:

- it happens quickly - within seconds
- they cannot splash
- they cannot yell
- they cannot breathe
- you won't hear them.

A child drowning is silent.

ACTIVE ADULT SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN

- Be prepared by ensuring you have everything you need before entering the pool/spa area or water such as towels, sunscreen, dry clothes, hats, swim goggles, toys, flotation device, etc
- Be familiar with your child's swimming ability and **always** keep within arm's reach when in or around the water
- If supervising from out of the water, **always** be ready to get into the water in an emergency
- **Leave any distractions** outside of the pool area, such as phone, iPad/computer, book, etc
- **Always** maintain visual contact – focus all your attention on your child by getting in the water and playing with them.



BE ATTENTIVE AND PROACTIVE BY:

- actively supervising children **at all times** when **in or around** the pool/spa
- explaining to children that they should always follow the pool rules and why
- regularly checking the pool/spa fence/ barrier is safe and make sure it is compliant
- ensuring there is **no rust visible** on the gate or fence
- ensuring the gate is **self-closing and self-latching from all open positions – replace immediately** if it no longer self-latches
- ensuring the gate **opens outwards away** from the pool/spa area
- keeping the pool/spa gate **closed at all times** – it only takes seconds for a child to drown
- ensuring there are **no climbable objects** such as furniture, trees, branches, shrubs, plants, pool toys or any other obstructions around the fence that a child can use to climb over the fence or open the gate to gain access to the pool/spa area
- ensuring all objects inside the pool/spa fence that may provide footholds are moved a **minimum of 300mm** away from the fence
- putting away toys and flotation devices in and around the pool/spa area when done using them, so a child won't be tempted to enter
- learning Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and how to swim
- enrolling your child in a learn to swim program
- ensuring there is a **current CPR sign** displayed clearly to anyone near the pool/spa
- ensuring the pool/spa is registered with the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) (see qbcc.qld.gov.au).

DON'T BE DISTRACTED OR PUT A CHILD AT RISK BY:

- allowing older children/siblings to supervise younger children or relying on lifeguards or others to supervise your child
- drinking alcohol while swimming in the pool/spa and supervising children
- leaving children unattended in and around the pool/spa. If you leave the pool/spa or water area, even for a minute, take your child with you
- having a coffee, using your phone, reading a book, or even gardening in and around the pool/spa area
- leaving children unattended in the pool/spa area to wash the car, do the mowing or going inside the house
- allowing children to run around playing games in and around the pool/spa area
- turning your back on young children when swimming in the pool/spa
- leaving a pool/spa gate propped open for any reason
- not having a compliant pool/spa fence/barrier.



UPERVISE
around the pool



NCLOSE
the pool with a fence



CTIVELY
check the pool gate and fence



EARN
CPR and to swim



WATER SAFETY EDUCATION

[SEAL Pool Safety Programs](#) offers a number of learn to swim programs and CPR awareness sessions for children and adults, along with handy downloadable resources.

[Kids Alive - Do the Five](#) educate the community on the importance of water safety to reduce the risk of children aged 0-4 years from drowning. The website also has resources and educational videos for both adults and children.

[Royal Life Saving Society Queensland \(RLSSQ\)](#) offer a number of programs such as the Keep Watch Program and Swim and Survive Program.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- **SEAL Pool Safety Programs:**
ipswich.qld.gov.au/seal
- **Swimming Pools, Spas and Safety Barriers:**
ipswich.qld.gov.au/poolsafe
- **Queensland Building and Construction Commission:**
qbcc.qld.gov.au

You can also contact our friendly Pool Safety Team on (07) 3810 6120 or email poolsprogram@ipswich.qld.gov.au

DISCLAIMER

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