



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF

Sheriff Jerry L. Demings

For more information on pool safety, contact the

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The Pool Safety Resource

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The Central Florida Drowning Prevention Task Force

www.stopadrowning.com



Pool Safety For Children



Millions of Americans enjoy the benefits of exercise and relaxation provided by a home swimming pool. However, a study conducted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission demonstrates the need for special care to avoid drowning and other serious injuries - particularly to young children.

Check the following safety features to make sure your pool meets the test.

FENCING

- ❖ There should be a fence on all four sides of the pool.
- ❖ The fence should be at least 4 feet high.
- ❖ No vertical opening in the fence should be more than 4 inches wide.
- ❖ The fence should be constructed so that young children cannot climb it.
- ❖ The fence should allow a clear view of the pool from the house.
- ❖ The safest pool fence is one that you would only go through to use the pool.

GATE

- ❖ The gate should be self-closing.
- ❖ The gate should be 4 ft high and have a self-locking mechanism at 54" high in proper working order.
- ❖ The gate latching mechanism should be out of reach of young children.



Gate latch

DOORS

- ❖ All exit doors from the house to the pool should have a lock at least 54 inches above the ground and be kept routinely locked and alarmed.

STEPS

- ❖ Steps leading to an above-ground pool should be removed when the pool is not in use.

SUPERVISION

- ❖ Young children should never be left alone in or around the pool. They should always be supervised by an adult.
- ❖ Babysitters and guardians should always be instructed about potential hazards to young children in and around the pool.
- ❖ Caretakers should never rely on flotation devices or swimming lessons to protect a child. Supervise young children at all times.
- ❖ During pool parties, designate a "Water Watcher."

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- ❖ Keep a phone at poolside.
- ❖ If your child is missing, check the pool first.
- ❖ Parents, guardians, and babysitters should know how to institute CPR or resuscitation immediately and how to call for emergency personnel.
- ❖ Periodically review your pool safety system for defects and age appropriateness.

EDUCATION

- ❖ Talk to your children about pool safety.
- ❖ Post pool rules and follow them consistently.
- ❖ Teach infants and young children to swim.

LAYERS OF POOL PROTECTION

Layer your protection so that if one part fails, there is always a back up. (See figure at right.)

