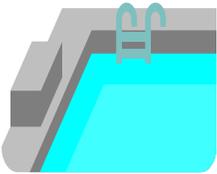


# Water Safety

## Facts About Water Safety

- ◆ Drowning is the leading cause of death for California children ages 1 to 4.



- ◆ Most drownings happen in home swimming pools and spas, but children can also drown in *toilets, bathtubs, and buckets.*

## Water Safety Tips

Drowning only takes a couple of minutes and a couple inches of water. Here are some ways to reduce your child's risk of drowning:

- ★ **Stay within an arm's reach.**

Make sure that you are near your child whenever he is around a pool, spa, bathtub or other water.



**Never** leave a child alone in or near a bathtub, pail of water, wading or swimming pool, or any other water, even for a second. Empty all water from a tub, pail or any other container immediately after use. Keep toilet lids down and/or bathroom doors closed.



- ★ **Take turns watching the kids.** Assign a specific adult to supervise the area, especially during social gatherings.

This responsibility must be taken seriously. Designated watchers must not drink alcohol or be distracted. Be sure to watch the water, not the children.

- ★ **Be ready for an emergency.** Learn CPR, know how to swim, and keep a telephone and emergency numbers near the pool.



- ★ **Learn how to swim.** *Swimming lessons are **NOT** a substitute for close adult supervision.* Adults and children should all

know how to swim. Children are usually ready for swimming lessons around age 4.

- ★ **Swim with a buddy.** Teach children to always swim with a friend. *Never let children swim alone, even if they know how to swim.*

- ★ **If you own a pool or a spa, take action to prevent a drowning!**

- ✓ The pool must have a five-foot fence that goes completely around the pool and spa and separates them from your home. Install a fence that children cannot climb or squeeze through.
- ✓ The fence gate, side gates and doors that lead to the pool or spa area should be **self-closing** and **self-latching**, with latches up above a child's reach.
- ✓ Add extra protection like automatic safety covers and alarms on doors and windows leading to the water.
- ✓ Do not use floating pool covers. A child can slip underneath and be trapped out of sight.
- ✓ Do not let children dive into water unless an adult has checked the depth to be sure it's safe.
- ✓ Never leave toys in the pool or spa area.

