



TOP TEN WATER SAFETY TIPS

1. Hypothermia can set in faster than you might think. Learn the signs and guard against them.
2. Fence backyard pools and ensure gates have self-locking latches. Fences should be 4 feet high with no foot or handrails for kids to climb. Slats should be no less than 4 inches apart. Chain link openings should be no larger than 1³/₄ inch.
3. Kids should never dive into above ground pools.
4. Properly fitting life jackets should always be worn while boating.
5. Teach your child to never stand in a small powerboat, canoe or other similar watercraft.
6. Seconds count when it comes to water emergencies. Keep a cordless or cell phone with you when your kids are in the water.
7. Foot protection should always be worn at the beach or lake. Put your child in aqua socks for their comfort and protection.
8. Even strong swimmers shouldn't play in large waves or where there is a risk of undertow. Teach kids to never turn their back to the water and to swim parallel to the shore or tread water if caught in a rip current or undertow.
9. Never enter the water around hydroelectric equipment, dykes or dams.
10. Identify lifeguard staff before you enter the water, and ensure your child knows who and where they are, and that it's smart to ask them for help.