

Safety Tips

1 Never leave a child alone or out of your eye-sight in or near the pool, spa or hot tub - - not even for a second. **THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR CONSTANT ADULT SUPERVISION.**

2 Access to the pool, spa or hot tub should be limited by locked doors and/or gates whenever swimming or soaking cannot be supervised. A pool alarm which is capable of detecting a child entering the water, and gives an audible alarm poolside and inside the house, provides an additional layer of protection.

3 Keep toys, particularly tricycles or wheel toys, away from the pool, spa or hot tub. A child playing with these could accidentally fall into the water.

4 Do not allow anyone of any age to swim without a "spotter" nearby. Examples of good safety behavior by adults are important for your children.

This brochure is intended to provide basic information about the range of products available to provide layers of safety. APSP, NESPA and the County of Westchester cannot endorse or evaluate the effectiveness of any individual product, but we encourage you to investigate several of the listed options in the context of the type of pool, spa or hot tub you have, the age of the children likely to be in the area, and neighborhood and topographical factors. Many of the products listed in this brochure are new and represent significant technological advances over what was available just a few years ago.

For additional information, see www.TheAPSP.org, www.nespa.org and www.westchestergov.com.

WARNING: Drowning is one of the leading causes of accidental death of infants and children under the age of five. There is no substitute for competent adult supervision in the swimming pool environment.

Lives depend on you!

Westchester
gov.com

Andrew J. Spano, Westchester County Executive
County Board of Legislators

Is your swimming pool safe?

How to Protect Your Family at the Pool This Summer



DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION
Gary S. Brown, Director

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Joshua Lipsman, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., Commissioner



A Message from the County Executive

Swimming pools provide a healthy, relaxing recreational opportunity for families. Nevertheless, parents and pool owners should be fully aware that pools, like any body of water, pose serious risks

to children. Drowning is one of the leading causes of accidental deaths in the country, especially for children under five. However, these are avoidable accidents, which can be prevented.

This brochure, designed in cooperation with the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) and the Northeast Spa & Pool Association (NESPA), will provide you with important life saving information to ensure the safety of every

pool in Westchester County. I urge you to read this carefully and to become familiar with the safety tips and New York State's new law regarding pool alarms.

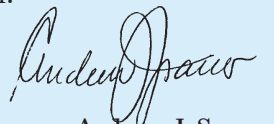
Remember, never leave a child unsupervised or out of sight in or near a pool - - not even for a second.

Protect Your Family - - Install a Pool Alarm

New York State recently enacted a Pool Alarm law that went into effect on December 14, 2006. All swimming pools installed, constructed or substantially modified on or after that date must be equipped with an approved pool alarm. Under ASTM F2208 standards, the alarm must be capable of detecting a child entering the water, and an 85-plus-decibel warning must sound within 20 seconds at poolside and at another location on the premises - - preferably inside the house.

While the law only requires an alarm for new and remodeled pools, we strongly urge all pool owners to install a pool alarm. The additional layer of protection provided by this relatively inexpensive device can make the difference between life and death. Consult with your pool professional about which approved pool alarm is right for you.

Whether it is an in-ground, above-ground or inflatable pool, or a hot tub, there is no substitution for constant parental supervision.



Andrew J. Spano
Westchester County Executive



Important Safety Measures for Your Pool, Spa, or Hot Tub

1 Fencing

PURPOSE: To isolate the swimming pool by way of a minimum four-foot-high enclosure.

TYPES: a. Chain link; b. Wooden picket (if non-climbable); c. Ornamental; d. Portable fencing*; e. Natural barrier (thick hedge), if permitted by local code.

**Purpose: To temporarily isolate a pool, spa, or hot tub when children are visiting.*

2 Automatic, Power Safety Covers

PURPOSE: An impenetrable covering that completely covers the pool, blocking access to water. Cover is operated electronically or by a key independent of all other pool equipment.

TYPES: Meets ASTM F1346-91 (2003), Standard performance specification for safety covers and labeling requirements for all covers for swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs

3 Manual Safety Covers

PURPOSE: An impenetrable covering that completely covers the pool, spa, or hot tub, blocking access to water.

TYPES: Meets ASTM F1346 Standard

4 Door Exit Alarms

PURPOSE: Warns parent or guardian when a child opens the door.

TYPES: a. Door announcer/chime; b. Home security system

APSP, NESPA and the County of Westchester remind parents that these “safety measures”

are backups to the primary means of

*accident prevention: **Responsible Adult Supervision.***

5 Self-closing/self-latching devices for doors and latching devices for windows

PURPOSE: Keeps all doors and windows leading to the pool, spa, or hot tub area securely closed, limiting access by children.

TYPES: a. Hinge pin replacement; b. Sliding glass door closer; c. Swing arm

6 Fence Gate Closer & Latch

PURPOSE: To close and latch fence gates securely, making a pool, spa, or hot tub inaccessible to a child.

TYPES: Self-latching

7 Fence Gate Alarms

PURPOSE: Sounds when fence gate is open.

8 Infrared Detectors

PURPOSE: Wireless detection alarm that sounds when the area around the pool perimeter is entered.

TYPES: a. Light-beam; b. Body energy

9 Pool Alarms

PURPOSE: An alarm placed in the pool that sounds upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water.

TYPES: a. Surface water (wave motion); b. Pressure waves (acoustic); c. Electronic monitoring system

10 Child Alarms

PURPOSE: An alarm clipped on the child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water.

TYPES: Clip-on transmitter with outside and in-home receiver

11 Rope & Float Line

A rope & float line should be placed across the pool, alerting swimmers to the separation of the deep end from the shallow end of the pool.

12 Life Ring, Shepherd’s Hook

All rescue equipment should be placed near the pool in an easily accessible spot, and should be kept in good condition. These can be used to pull someone in trouble to safety.

13 Posted Emergency Information

Post all CPR, other emergency information, and warning signs, as well as the emergency phone number “911” (or other emergency medical service number), near the pool, spa, or hot tub.

14 Outside Telephone

A cordless or poolside telephone means parents don’t have to leave children unattended while they answer the phone. Also, it’s a good idea to have one handy to summon help, if needed.

15 Anti-Entrapment Drain Covers and Fittings

Current grates and covers help prevent body or hair entrapment. Make sure that drain covers meet the ANSI/ASME A112.19.8M standard. Safety doors should be installed in all pool cleaner wall suction lines. Pools, spas, or hot tubs with drain covers that are broken, missing, or not adequately secured should not be used until the proper replacement has been installed. Never allow children to play on or near drains, suction outlets, or jets.

16 Water Clarity

Clear water aids in identifying soakers and swimmers in distress, helps swimmers avoid collisions and is an indicator that the sanitizer, circulation, and filtration systems are functioning. Poor water clarity suggests the presence of bacteria and/or algae or nutrients for their growth, and that the circulation and filtration systems may not be working efficiently to remove the contaminants from the water.

