



Home Water Hazards for Young Children

Each year, many young children drown in swimming pools, other bodies of water, and standing water around the home, such as

- Bathtubs
- Buckets and pails, especially 5-gallon buckets and diaper pails
- Ice chests with melted ice
- Toilets
- Hot tubs, spas, and whirlpools
- Irrigation ditches, postholes, and wells
- Fishponds and fountains

Children must be watched closely by an adult at all times when in or near water. Children may drown in an inch or 2 of water. Stay within an arm's length of your child.

Other safety activities include

- Empty all buckets, pails, and bathtubs completely after each use—do not leave them filled and unattended.
- Keep young children out of the bathroom unless they are closely watched. Teach others in the home to keep the bathroom door closed. Install a hook-and-eye latch or doorknob cover on the outside of the door. Always close the toilet lid, and consider using a toilet lid latch.
- Never leave a child alone in a bathtub or in the care of another child, even for a moment. Avoid using bath seats or rings. Your baby can slip out of them and be trapped underwater. An adult must be within arm's reach, providing touch supervision at all times.
- Use a rigid, lockable cover on a hot tub, spa, or whirlpool, or fence in all 4 sides as you would for a swimming pool.
- The hottest temperature at the faucet should be no more than 120°F to avoid burns. In many cases, you can adjust your water heater.
- Throw away or tightly cover water or chemical mixtures after use.
- Watch children closely when they are playing near wells, open postholes, or irrigation or drainage ditches. Fill in empty holes or have fences installed to protect your child.
- Learn CPR and know how to get emergency help.

From Your Doctor

The information in this publication should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.

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