

Safe Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs Save Lives

Pools and spas are great for play, exercise and therapy. However, an alarming number of water-related deaths and injuries occur in and around pools each year. Properly following building safety codes, such as the International Code Council's International Swimming Pool and Spa Code™, can help prevent such tragedies and ensure family and friends have a safer, more enjoyable experience when using pools, spas and hot tubs.



STATISTICS

Every year, more than 250 children under the age of five drown in swimming pools and more than 2,700 children seek medical treatment for pool-related accidents—mostly in backyard pools, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

More than 75 percent of swimming pool accident victims were missing for five minutes or less when they were found drowned or in serious trouble.

One or both parents were supervising victims when the swimming pool accident occurred.

WHAT WE CAN DO

Building safety codes are life savers. International Code Council® codes include specific provisions to make pools and spas safe. For example:

FENCES

- Install a fence at least four-feet-high around the pool area.
- Install a self-latching gate or door in the fence to make pool areas inaccessible to children and unauthorized swimmers.
- Spas and hot tubs also should have a similar fence or an approved, lockable safety cover.

DOOR ALARMS

Install a door alarm. When the door or gate is opened, the alarm sounds and acts as an early warning device.

POOL ALARMS

Install a pool alarm to detect accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. While the alarm provides an immediate warning, it does not substitute for the fences, door alarms and safety covers required by the code.



Saving, Enhancing Lives through Safety Codes

SAFETY COVERS

Install either an automatic or manually operated, approved safety cover to completely block access to water in the pool, spa or hot tub. Never allow anyone to stand or play on a pool cover.

DRAIN (SUCTION OUTLET) COVERS/GRATES

All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or grate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked to indicate compliance with ANSI/ASME A112.19.8 2007. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has asked manufacturers to mark covers with "VGB 2008" to help identify covers that comply with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Safety Act that establishes safety requirements for public pools and spas.

A suction outlet (drain) cover, marked "VGB 2008", protects people from entrapment below water. A missing cover, or a cover that is not marked "VGB 2008", could result in some part of a swimmer's body, such as fingers, limbs and hair, to become entangled in the drain. They might not be able to free themselves in time resulting in a near drowning injury or drowning. The pool should be closed immediately when broken, missing or noncompliant suction outlet (drain) covers are first noticed. Replacement of drain covers should be performed by a pool professional. Even with a compliant drain cover installed, it is always good pool safety to never allow anyone to play near or with a drain cover.

OUTLET CONFIGURATION

Pools and spas with drains should have more than one drain (suction

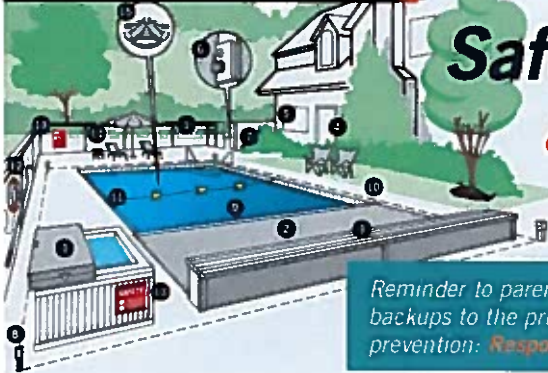
outlet), spaced a minimum of 3 feet apart; one or more unblockable drains or no main drain.

VACUUM RELEASE OR VENTED SYSTEMS

Pools and spas with a single drain, other than an unblockable outlet must have one of the following: a safety vacuum release system (SVRS); an engineered vent system; a gravity drainage system; or other safety features that comply with industry standards (ANSI/APSP-7-2013).

POOL CLEANER FITTINGS

Pools and spas with wall vacuum fittings must have self closing, self latching covers located at least 6 inches and not greater than 18 inches below the minimum operating water level, or as an attachment to the skimmer.



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Reminder to parents that these "layers" are backups to the primary means of accident prevention: **Responsible Adult Supervision**

ISPSC

1. Barrier Requirements (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 (edge of lake or other natural body of water); f. Natural topography (mountains or natural rock formations), if permitted by local codes.

2. Automatic Power Safety Cover

Purpose: A pool cover that is placed over the water area, and is opened and closed with a motorized mechanism activated by a control switch.
Types: Shall be listed and labelled in accordance with ASTM F1346.

3. Manual Safety Covers

Purpose: An impenetrable covering that completely covers the pool, spa, or hot tub, blocking access to water.
Types: Shall be listed and labelled in accordance with ASTM F1346.

4. Door Exit Alarms

Purpose: An alarm that produces an audible warning when a child opens a door, screen or window.
Types: The alarm shall be listed and labelled as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL 2017.

5. Self-Closing/Self Latching Devices for Doors and Latching Devices for windows

Purpose: An approved means of protection, such as, self-closing doors with self-latching devices can be used to comply with Section 305.4 of the 2018 ISPSC, provided that the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by item 3 & 4 above.

Types: A latch release mechanism that is not less than 54" (1372mm) above the floor.

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 and be located on the vessel side of the gate at least three inches (76mm) below the top of the gate.

7. Fence Gate Alarms:

Purpose: Produces an audible warning when a fence gate is opened.

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. While the alarm provides an immediate warning, it does not substitute for the fences, door alarms and safety covers required by this code.

Types: a. Surface water (wave motion); b. Pressure wave (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 a 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. See Section 811.1 of the 2018 ISPSC for specific details.

12. Life Ring, Shepard's Hook

Always keep basic lifesaving equipment by the pool and know how to use it. 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

Keep a cordless or poolside telephone within easy reach of the pool area for emergency calls. It also means parents don't have to leave children unattended while they answer the phone.

15. Anti-Entrapment Drain Covers and Fittings

All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or grate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked with "VGB 2008" indicating compliance with ANSI/APSP-16 2011. A cover protects people from entrapment, including suction. Without the cover, some part of a person's body (especially a limb) may be trapped, causing injury or drowning. If a cover is broken, loose or missing, the pool should be closed immediately until the drain cover is replaced or repaired by a professional. No one should be allowed to play with a drain cover or near a drain.

Outlet Configuration

Pools and spas with drains should have more than one drain (suction outlet), spaced a minimum of 3 feet apart; one or more un-lockable drains or no main drain.

Vacuum Release or Vented System

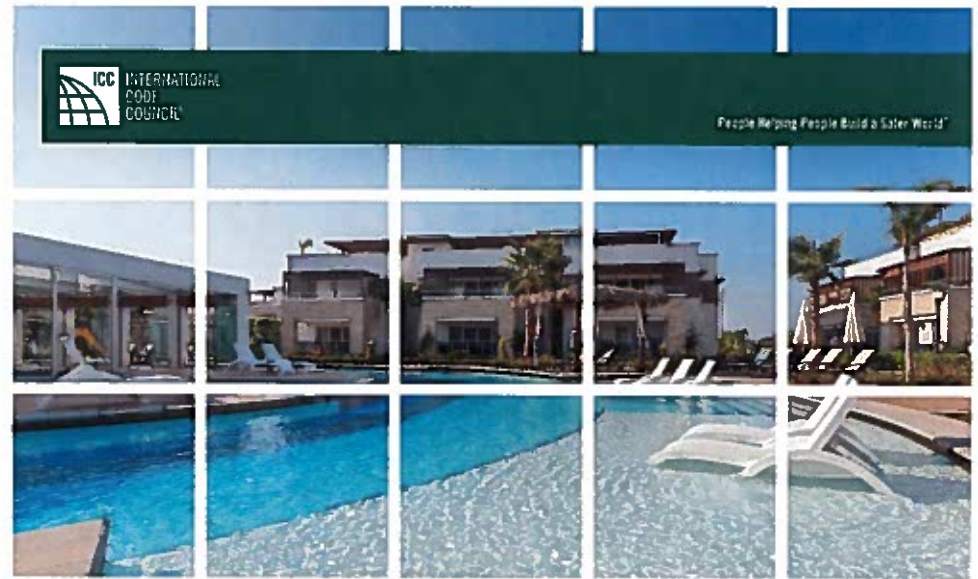
Pools and spas with a single drain, other than an un-blockable outlet must have one of the following: A safety vacuum release system (SVRS); an engineered vent system; a gravity drainage system; or other safety features that comply with consensus standards (ANSI/APSP/NCC 7-2013).

Pool Cleaner Fittings

Pool and spas with wall vacuum fittings must have self-closing, self-latching covers located at least 6 inches and not greater than 18 inches below the minimum operating water level, or as an attachment to the skimmer.



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INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING POOL AND SPA CODE (ISPSC)

Assuring Public Health and Safety in the Aquatic World through Building Science.

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