



# THE HAZARDS OF POOL & SPA DRAINS AT HOME



The hot days of summer are often spent poolside with friends and family, but a relaxing day in your backyard can quickly become an emergency if proper pool safety precautions aren't taken. Old or broken drain covers in a home pool or spa can increase the chances of drowning. In addition to always supervising children, follow this important advice on drain safety to keep you and your family swimming safely this summer.

## THE COST OF NEGLIGENCE: EMERGENCY STATISTICS

# 98%

of drowning incidents happened in a pool owned by the child's family, friend or relative.



# 5,200

annual estimate of pool or spa-related emergency department-treated submersion injuries for children younger than 15.



# 77%

of the victims had been missing from sight for 5 minutes or less. **A child can drown in the time it takes to answer a phone.**



# 390

annual average of pool or spa-related drownings for children younger than 15. Most were children between 1-3 years.



## PREVENTING ENTRAPMENT IN POOLS AND SPAS



Children love to play near drains, but keep them away to prevent them from getting trapped in their powerful suction.



Check periodically for broken or loose drain covers.

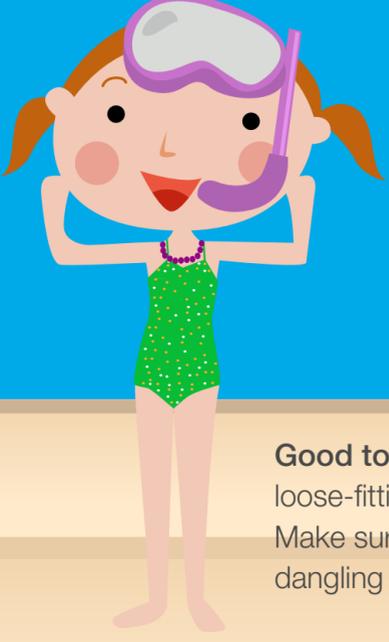
Make sure all drain covers are certified for safety.



Know where the electrical shut off is for emergencies.



Consider installing a safety vacuum release system which shuts off power to drains if a blockage is detected.



### How Do I Know if My Drain is Certified for Safety?



Before you purchase a drain cover, examine the cover to make sure it displays **ANSI/APSP 16** or **ANSI/ASME A112.19.8** on the surface or ask the pool/spa owner if the pool drain cover meets ANSI/APSP 16 requirements. If you do not know ask your pool service professional.

**Good to Know:** The body (often the torso or bottom), hair, limbs, loose-fitting swim suits and jewelry are all key entrapment hazards. Make sure that loose items (long hair, clothing or jewelry) are not dangling when swimming in a pool or sitting in a spa.

## RESPONDING TO AN ENTRAPMENT EMERGENCY



### Step 1

Cut off the pump immediately.



### Step 2

**Don't pull but ROLL** the person away from the powerful suction of the drain. Break the suction seal by inserting fingers or a small object between the drain and the person's body. **ROLL** them off until they're free.



### Step 3

Call for help immediately. Always have a portable telephone poolside.



### Step 4

**Administer CPR.** At least one person by the pool should know the basics of CPR.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Download these pool and spa safety tips from NSF International:  
[www.nsf.org/info/poolspasafety](http://www.nsf.org/info/poolspasafety)

## SOURCES:

NSF International, [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)  
Consumer Product Safety Commission, [www.poolsafely.gov](http://www.poolsafely.gov)