Pool Safety Checklist

A one-page checklist for pool and hot tub owners: four-sided fencing, self-latching gates, alarms, covers, drains, Water Watchers and rescue gear.

Letter page · For parents, caregivers

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A four-sided fence that separates the pool from the house and yard cuts a child's drowning risk by 83% compared with three-sided property-line fencing (CDC).

Barriers

- [ ] Fence on all four sides, at least 4 feet high, with no gaps wider than 4 inches.
- [ ] Gate self-closes and self-latches, opens away from the pool, latch at least 54 inches up.
- [ ] Doors and windows to the pool have locks and alarms out of a child's reach.
- [ ] Above-ground pool: ladder removed or locked; no furniture or toys to climb on.
- [ ] Hot tub has a locked cover. Drain covers are in place, not loose or broken.

Swim time and emergencies

- [ ] One named Water Watcher at a time: no phone, no other job, switch every 15-20 minutes.
- [ ] An adult who can swim stays within arm's reach of babies, toddlers and weak swimmers.
- [ ] A phone, a reaching pole, something to throw and a first aid kit are by the pool.
- [ ] Everyone knows: if a child is missing, check the pool first.

What you can do today: close the gate and let go: it should latch by itself. Then read what makes a pool barrier work or try Pool barrier check.

Sources

1. Risk Factors for Drowning, CDC. https://www.cdc.gov/drowning/risk-factors/index.html
2. Drowning Prevention for Curious Toddlers, American Academy of Pediatrics (HealthyChildren.org). https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/Water-Safety-And-Young-Children.aspx
3. Home Pool & Hot Tub Safety, American Red Cross. https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/water-safety/home-pool-safety.html
4. Swimming Safety, American Red Cross. https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/water-safety/swim-safety.html
5. Safety Tips, Pool Safely (CPSC). https://www.poolsafely.gov/parents/safety-tips/

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