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## Pool Safety Water Safety Steps



Your greatest water safety assurance comes from adopting and practicing as many safety steps as possible.

Adding an extra safety step around the water can make all the difference. You can never know which safety step will save a life — until it does.

### Stay Close, Be Alert and Watch

- Always watch your children and never leave them unattended
- Keep children away from pool drains, pipes and other openings
- Have a phone close by at all times
- If a child is missing, check the pool first
- Share safety instructions with family, friends and neighbors

### Learn and Practice Water Safety Skills

- Learn to swim
- Know how to perform CPR on children and adults
- Understand the basics of life saving so that you can assist in a pool emergency

### Have the Appropriate Equipment

- Install a fence around the perimeter of the pool and spa of at least four feet in height
- Use self-closing and self-latching gates
- Ensure all pools and spas have compliant drain covers
- Install a door alarm from the house to the pool area
- Maintain pool and spa covers in working order
- Have life-saving equipment such as life rings or reaching poles available for use

## Pool Safety: Simple Steps Save Lives

*Pool Safety* is a national public education campaign to reduce child drownings, non-fatal submersions and entrapments in public swimming pools and spas. The campaign was developed by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to carry out the requirements of the *Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (P&SS Act)*, federal legislation mandating new requirements for public pools and spas, including a public education campaign.

CPSC is working to ensure drowning and entrapment prevention become important public safety priorities by raising awareness, promoting industry compliance and improving safety at pools and spas. The *Pool Safety* campaign gives emphasis to an important and simple message: just adding an extra safety step in and around the water can make all the difference.

CPSC estimates that each year nearly 300 children younger than five drown in swimming pools and spas and more than 3,200 children that age go to hospital emergency rooms due to submersion injuries in pools and spas.

You and your family can *Pool Safety* by adopting extra safety steps:

- Practice supervision
- Install barriers
- Avoid entrapment
- Know life-saving skills

For more information and resources for pool and spa safety and the Pool and Spa Safety Act, visit:

[www.PoolSafely.gov](http://www.PoolSafely.gov)

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Pool  
simple steps  
save lives  
SAFELY



Steps for Safety  
Around the Pool  
The Pool and Spa Safety Act

A public education campaign from the  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission



## Avoid Drain Entrapments

**Hair entanglement:** hair can get caught in a faulty drain cover

**Limbs:** arms, legs and fingers can become lodged in a suction opening

**Body:** any body part that can cover a drain can be held down by suction

**Evisceration:** sitting on a faulty drain can cause injuries or disembowelment

**Mechanical:** jewelry or bathing suits can become entangled in a faulty drain cover

### Make Sure Your Children:

- Do not play or swim near drains or suction outlets, especially in spas and shallow pools.
- Never enter a pool or spa that has a loose, broken or missing drain cover.

If you see a broken or loose drain cover, immediately notify a lifeguard and the pool/spa manager.

A pool or spa with a broken, loose or missing drain cover should be closed immediately until repairs are made by a licensed professional.

Children's public wading pools, other pools designed specifically for young children, and in-ground spas that have flat drain grates and single main drain systems pose the greatest risk of entrapment.



## The Pool & Spa Safety Act

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (PGSSA Act) was enacted to prevent the tragic and hidden hazard of drain entrapments and eviscerations in pools and spas.



New drain covers come in a variety of sizes and shapes. For a list of cover manufacturers see: [www.PoolSafety.gov](http://www.PoolSafety.gov).



### Virginia Graeme Baker

In June 2002, seven-year-old Virginia Graeme Baker died after becoming stuck on a hot tub drain due to a powerful suction force.

The drain's suction was so powerful that it took two adult males to pull her from the drain. Graeme was a member of a community swim and dive team and had been swimming unassisted since she was three years old. After being found underwater by her twin sister, Graeme's mother, Nancy Baker, tried unsuccessfully to pull Graeme off the drain. Mrs. Baker said Graeme appeared to be attached to the bottom of the spa as if she were tied or held down. The men who eventually freed Graeme from the spa pulled so hard that the drain cover broke from the force. Graeme died from drowning but the real cause of her death was suction entrapment due to a faulty drain cover.

As of December 19, 2008, all operating public pools and spas must have drain covers that meet the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 standard on every drain/

grate. If a pool has a single main drain (other than an unblockable drain), or multiple drains less than 3 feet apart, the operator must either disable the drain(s) or install a second anti-entrapment device or system. This can take the form of an automatic pump shut-off system, gravity drainage system, Safety Vacuum Release System (SVRS) or suction-limiting vent system.

**Entrapment caused by powerful suction from a pool or spa's drain can trap a child or adult. Do not use a pool or spa if there are flat, broken or missing drain covers.**

Report drain entrapments in pools and spas:

Call CPSC's Hotline at (800) 638-2772 or Email: [info@cpsc.gov](mailto:info@cpsc.gov)