

Pool Safety for Children & Pets

Drowning is one of the leading causes of death for children five years of age and under. Drowning under the age of one most often occurs in a bathtub. Drowning from the age of one to five most often occurs in a swimming pool.

As pool owners, we have an obligation to do our part to prevent drowning. We suggest that pool owners come up with a list of pool rules and require that they be followed. The following are a few suggestions for a list of pool rules:

Pool Rules for Young Children

1. Never go into the backyard without an adult.
2. No running around the pool.
3. Never push anyone into the pool.
4. Never hold anyone under the water.
5. Don't cry for help unless it is an emergency.
6. No diving.
7. Always use floaties (or another type of floatation device).

In addition, make a commitment to do the following:

1. Make sure that the fence and gate meets code (check your local pool ordinance) and stays in compliance.
2. Keep a telephone outside when we are outside.
3. Keep all toys (bikes, wagons, etc.) away from the pool.
4. Teach your children to swim and spend time with them in the pool.

It is sad, but even when safety procedures are followed, accidents can happen.

We believe that it is very important that we all learn CPR, but especially pool owners. The American Heart Association has even made the statement: "Parents and older children who live in a home with a swimming pool should learn CPR." Most of the employees of Gohlke Pools have taken CPR. We have even gone as far as providing a free CPR class "CPR for Friends and Family". If you are interested in taking this course, feel free to call our office at (940) 384-7665 for more information.

The saying "**there is no substitute for adult supervision**" applies here. This statement has never been more true than it is when it comes to preventing a drowning, whether it be in a bathtub or a swimming pool.

A very good way to communicate some of these pool safety tips to children is to read them the book "*Anthony Mouse Goes Swimming*", written by Elizabeth C. Powhida. The book is out of publication but you are more than welcome to use our copy for reading it to your children.

Swimming is an excellent activity that the entire family can enjoy together, but we must always have respect for the potential danger that exists

Pool Safety for Pets

Several times per year we hear of pets drowning in swimming pools. We believe that we often overlook pool safety for our pets. The following are some pool safety tips for your pets (we mention dogs throughout the tips because it is most often dogs that drown in pools).

1. Watch your dogs as you would your children when they are in the pool area. This might sound ridiculous, but not all dogs are able to take care of themselves when in the pool.

2. Have a water dish for your dog. Some people allow their dogs to drink out of the pool. The water should not harm the dog, but if the dog falls into the pool while trying to get a drink, the dog may become startled and be unable to recover.
3. Teach your dog how to get out of the pool. If a dog is unable to find a way out of the pool, they may swim around until they wear themselves out. Although it is not recommended for dogs to be allowed in pools due to additional chemical requirements and hair in the filter, many of us believe that our pet is a member of the family. Swim with your pet to show them the exit points of the pool.

Although pet drownings do occur, an area often overlooked when it comes to pool and pets are the chemicals used in the pool. Be sure to keep lids tight on all chemical containers and clean up any chemical spills to prevent accidents with your family pets.

Pools and pets are both important parts of the family, and they can coexist if we are careful and pay attention when they are in the pool area.

Note:

-The information in this brochure is true and complete to the best of our knowledge, but without guarantee on the part of Gohlke Pool Supply, Inc., and Gohlke Custom Pools, Inc., or on the part of any of its employees who disclaim all liability incurred with the use of this information.

-Always follow label directions and manufacturer's instructions for each product used.

COPYRIGHT 2015 Gohlke Pool Supply, Inc. and Gohlke Custom Pools, Inc.