

Keep Kids Safe from Drowning

Drowning can happen when you least expect it.

Drowning is one of the leading causes of preventable death in children 1–4 years of age. To reduce the risk of drowning, use multiple **layers of protection** and restrict unsupervised access to water sources such as pools, hot tubs, canals, ponds, ditches, bathtubs, toilets, and more.



Layers of Protection

Supervise

Constant supervision is the most effective drowning prevention.

- Know your surroundings and possible drowning risks to your child at home and when traveling.
- Ensure young children are always supervised by a trusted caregiver.
- Assign a Water Watcher and use touch-supervision.
- Never leave a child alone near water, even for a second.

Swim Safety

- Seconds count! CPR training saves lives.
- Water survival skills training and swim lessons can help reduce drowning risk for children.
- By their 4th birthday, most children are ready for swim lessons. Swim lessons are not a replacement for supervision.
- Make a family drowning prevention plan and ensure all family members know how to swim.

Barriers & Alarms

Use barriers to water access.

- Install and maintain 4-foot pool fencing and self-closing, self-latching gates, and doors.
- Secure and lock all doors, windows, and pet doors.
- Install door chimes or alarms.
- Routinely check for needed repairs to fencing, gates, and barriers.

Did You Know?

- While most child drowning incidents occur in a pool, nearly 70% of those children were not expected to be in the pool at that time.
- Distracted caregivers are a primary factor in child drowning incidents.
- Most drowning happens without a sound.
- Drowning incidents are preventable.

To learn more, visit:
WaterSmartFL.com

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