



BACKYARD AND POOL SAFETY TIPS FOR THE SUMMER

With summer close upon us, so comes the threat of accidents and injuries that happen in our own backyards. Following is a list of important tips to remember for backyard and pool safety:

Pool & Deck Safety

1. A permanent barrier is required to surround pools and the top of the barrier shall not be less than 48" in height.
2. Make sure all pedestrian gates in the barrier fence for your pool are self-closing and self-latching.
3. Remove all chairs, tables, large toys or other objects that would allow a child to climb up to reach the gate latch or enable the child to climb over the pool fence.
4. Reaching and throwing aids like poles should be kept near the pool and should remain stationary and not be misplaced through play activities.
5. All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or grate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked to indicate compliance with ANSI/ASME A112.19.8 2007. Check to see that these covers are not broken or in disrepair, and that they are anchored firmly over the drain openings.
6. Install a pool alarm to detect accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. While the alarm provides an immediate warning, it does not substitute for the barrier fences, door alarms and safety covers required by code.
7. Install either an automatic or manually operated, approved safety cover to completely block access to water in the pool, spa or hot tub. Never allow anyone to stand or play on a pool cover.
8. Check for warning signs of an unsafe deck, including loose or wobbly railings or support beams, missing or loose screws that connect a deck to the house, corrosion, rot and cracks.

Grill Safety

9. Place the grill away from the siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. It is also unsafe to use grills in a garage, porch or enclosed area that could trap carbon monoxide. Never grill on top of anything that can catch on fire.

10. When grilling, have a fire extinguisher, a garden hose or at least 4 gallons of water close by in case of a fire.
11. Keep children away from fires and grills. Establish a safety zone around the grill and instruct the children to remain outside of the zone. A chalk line works great for this purpose. Never leave the grill unattended.

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