

Backyard Pool Safety Inspections

This checklist focuses on the safety priorities for backyard swimming pools.

The inspections should be conducted on a regular basis – either by pool owners themselves or with National Lifeguards. Be thorough when completing the checklist. Write in the address, date, and time of the inspection. Indicate on the first page, the shallow and deep end water depths. Sketch a drawing of the pool on the form noting shallow areas, deep areas, diving boards, etc.

Backyard pool owners who complete these checklists successfully (no `no` items are checked off on the checklist) may obtain a free inspection certificate downloaded from the Lifesaving Society website.

Do not send checklists to the Society. While there is no charge for the use of this checklist or the certificates, donations are always appreciated by the Lifesaving Society.

The Entrance

Gate

Ensure the gate is securely fastened; that it is self-closing; and that it can be locked when the pool is not in use. For above ground pools, ladders should be removable and secured so that access to the swimming pool is restricted.

Fencing

Check that all areas of the fence are secure with no access points through or under the fence. Fencing should completely surround the pool and should be a minimum height of 1.5 meters or 5 feet. It should be difficult to climb. The wall of the house, where access to the pool can be gained from a doorway, is not considered a fourth fence wall.

Signage

A sign near the entrance to the swimming pool should read “Do not enter without permission.”

The Deck

Deck

The pool deck should be clean and obstacle free with no equipment or toys on the deck that might create a tripping hazard.

Rescue equipment

There should be at least one buoyant throwing aid (ring buoy or buoyant aid) with rope attached. There should also be at least one reaching pole available. A proper shepherd's hook is preferred for a reaching pole. A sound signaling device for signaling emergencies (e.g., whistle) should also be available in the pool area. A first aid kit and telephone with a listing of emergency telephone numbers should be adjacent to the pool area.

Diving board

Check diving board surfaces to ensure they are non-slip and securely fastened to the deck.

Deck Slides

Check water slides to ensure they are secured to the pool deck. Appropriate slide rules should be posted. Rules should include but not be limited to:

- One at a time on the slide
- Forward sitting position when sliding (no head-first sliding)
- Wait for area in front of slide to be cleared before sliding
- Do not jump from the top of the slide

Signage

"No Diving" signage should be posted in prominent locations in the pool area where water depth is less than 2.75 metres deep. Water depths (shallow water, drop off and deep water) should be posted in signage or painted on the swimming pool deck or pool edge.



The Tank

Buoy lines

Check buoy lines to ensure they are secured to the sides of the pool and have sufficient buoys to ensure the line floats at the surface.

Bottom Visibility

The bottom of the pool should be free from hair clumps, dirt, or other debris. The main drain should be clearly visible from the swimming pool edge.

Filter water inlets and outlets

Check main drains and all other water inlets and outlets to ensure that they are secure and cannot be removed from the pool bottom or sides.

Water Chemistry

Test the water to ensure that the pool water disinfection and pH readings are appropriate. Free Available Chlorine (FAC) levels should be a minimum of 0.5 ppm. pH should be between 7.2 and 7.8.

Chemicals

Storage

All chemicals should be safety stored in sealed containers away from sources of heat and inaccessible to individuals other than pool owners or their designate. Chemical containers should be properly and clearly labeled.



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Safety Supervision

At all times

When the pool is in use, it should be evident that a parent or guardian is directly supervising swimmers in a position from which immediate rescue is possible. For non-swimmers, this means “within arms’ reach.”

Shop the Lifesaving Society’s store

The Lifesaving Society has all the safety equipment and water quality testing equipment you will need for your backyard pool.

Our **Backyard Pool Safety Guidelines** helps pool owners reduce the risk of drowning and injury in backyard pools and hot tubs by outlining how to provide a secure aquatic environment in one’s own backyard.

Our **Within Arms’ Reach** pamphlet and DVD features Barbara Underhill, former World’s Pairs Champion figure skater who lost her 8-month daughter in a backyard pool, tells pool owners how to prevent such tragedies. In 11 minutes, Within Arms' Reach highlights how quickly and silently drownings occur and what owners can do to prevent these tragedies.

Equipment such as 20” ring buoys with throwing lines, adjustable reaching poles with hooks, hooks to hang all of these items, personal first aid kits (ideal for your backyard pool) and twist-N lock buoys and line to define swim areas and drop offs and much more.

Water quality test kits from Taylor technologies guarantee accurate readings of Free Chlorine or Bromine, PH, Total Alkalinity and Calcium Hardness. We offer basic Dip-N-Read test strips in reseal able containers for daily testing or more complex test kits for more accurate readings where chlorine levels are high or water temperatures are spa like.

Shop at www.lifeguarddepot.com or call 1-844-647-7033.