LUCY'S POOLS
NEWSLETTER

<u>Safety First</u>: With pool ownership, comes responsibility. Please read the following safety tips. Drowning is the #1 preventable cause of death in children. Be aware; keep our children safe. Please share.

This first volume will be dedicated to safety in and around your swimming pool.

1) Never, ever leave a child unattended in or around a swimming pool…no exceptions.

2) Do not expect a child under the age of 18 to be responsible for the safety and well-being of another child while swimming. It is unfair to burden an adolescent with the possibility of a life and death situation.

3) Be sure to have a self-closing/self latching gate. Gates should open out…towards front yard. If a self-closing gate is not possible, lock your gate(s) so kids cannot easily access your yard. (It's a liability issue as a homeowner. The harder it is to enter your premise, the lower your liability will be). Plus, you want to keep the temptation to enter your yard at a minimum.

4) Remove toys from the pool when finished swimming. Toddlers, if left unattended, (which they should never be) will try to reach for a toy, and often times fall in the water. (ADD PIC)

5) If using a solar blanket, watch your dogs if you let them out in the evening. They mistake the cover for solid ground. It happened to my dog.

6) If you have an automatic pool cleaner that has suction from the side of the pool…install a 'vac lock'. If the pool vac gets pulled out from the wall, the vac lock is designed to close the suction, preventing hair or a child's arm from being sucked in. (ADD PIC)

7) It is a good idea to remove the pool vac while kids are swimming. An easy way is to keep the hose attached in the wall and pull the hose onto the deck, (don't wrap it in a circle, keep hoses straight) while leaving the head in the water. This avoids having to prime it every time you return it to the pool. Tell kids it is NOT a toy.

8) If you do not already have anti-vortex main drain covers in your pool, consider removing the old ones and update to new safety covers. http://www.poolsafely.gov/pool-spa-safety-act/virginia-

graeme-baker/ This link explains why it is important to keep people away from main drains. When the pool is in use, shutting the valve to the main drain is an alternative safety measure. (PIC)

9) Never assume any 'other' adult at the pool is watching the children. You can still listen to a conversation while keeping your eyes on the kids.

10) Test the water for adequate level of sanitizer before swimming. This should be done a few hours before use, in case extra chlorine is needed to be added. Minimum 1.0 reading should be maintained.

11) Remove floating chlorine tab container while swimming. Be sure to return it to pool after use.

12) Do not allow diving in the shallow end of the pool. No glass containers.

13) Installing a simple alarm/chime to the back door will alert you when door is open.

14) If you can't afford the safety fences surrounding your pool, enclosing the patio area will help create another level of barrier to keep kids from accessing the pool directly.

15) The following link explains a phenomenon called 'dry drowning'. Although rare, it is something to be aware of, especially if you have children. http://www.swimmersdaily.com/2011/07/03/how-to-spot-symptoms-of-dry-and-delayed-drowning/

16) Know where the breaker or time clock to your pool system is in case you need to shut the pump off.

17) Keep your phone with you outdoors, preferably a landline, in case of an emergency.

18) Try to remove obstacles or other items around the pool that could cause tripping or falling.

It is my intention to educate…not frighten. But a healthy dose of reality never hurts.
Swimming pools are a great source of fun and relaxation. Swimming or walking in water is a great way to exercise and/or rehabilitate pulled muscles or for post-surgery therapy.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for creating a safe environment for our children!!

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!!

Lucy

www.lucyspools.com