

PLAYGROUND AND EXERCISE EQUIPMENT CAN PROVIDE A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE, BUT ONLY IF USED RESPONSIBLY.

A pool is just like any other type of playground and exercise equipment. Pool owners can enjoy the benefits, but they also need to be safety conscious. Being aware of the risks goes a long way towards eliminating them.

POOL FENCING

Swimming pool regulations require that all swimming pools and spas must be fenced. Under certain circumstances, houses may be used as a barrier. Fences must be at least 1.2m high and separate the pool from residential buildings and neighbouring properties. Gates must be self-closing and self-latching, and open away from the pool.

Remember:

- Fencing requirements must be met prior to filling the pool.
- Fencing and gates should be checked periodically to ensure they continue to satisfy the regulations.
- Don't leave furniture or other items that children can climb on near your pool fence or above-ground pool.

POOL COVERS

Pool covers are not designed to stop children getting into the pool. Rigid covers may provide a much greater barrier but even they are not totally child-proof. Soft covers can give the illusion of being solid but if a child walks on them they will sag

and create a pond deep enough to be dangerous. Accumulated rainwater can also have the same affect. When the pool is being used, the cover should never be left partially over the pool. If trapped under the cover a child may not be seen.

Remember:

- Pool covers should never be considered a substitute for a fence or proper supervision.

ENJOYING YOUR POOL

Most domestic pools are not designed for diving and injuries can result from divers hitting the side or bottom of the pool. So protect your family and friends by banning diving and "rough-house" play around or in the pool. Display a "NO DIVING" sign in your pool area and affix depth markers on or near the pool. Also ensure that anything that may be used as diving platform is moved away from the pool.

Even when a pool has been specifically designed for diving, slippery dips, diving boards, trampolines etc, should only be used under constant adult supervision.

Remember:

- Ensure that your pool is clearly visible from the house.
- Supervise pool users at all times.
- Place "NO DIVING" signs near your pool unless it has been specifically designed to allow safe diving.

- Drinking and swimming don't mix - don't allow alcohol to be consumed by pool users.
- Keep glasses and other breakables away from the pool area - using plastic can prevent injury.

REMEMBER: There is no substitute for adult supervision of pool users at all times.

Please refer to the Kidsafe Victoria website which further details responsible child accident prevention behaviour - www.kidsafevic.com.au

