

PORTABLE POOL SAFETY

The use of small inflatable and plastic pools in child care programs or schools should be discouraged. This includes small child care settings in private homes. The larger number of children from different families in child care settings and schools can increase the risk for spreading Recreational Water Illnesses (RWIs). Like any toy, there can be downsides to a portable pool. It poses a risk for drowning and can easily turn into a breeding ground for RWIs. For these two reasons, it's important to observe the following safety tips when you are using children's blow up pools.

Preparation is your best line of defense when it comes to avoiding the downsides of inflatable pools. So, put these tips into action and you will be able to add health and safety to the fun experience that blow up children pools offer.

Only Fill the Pool with Fresh Water

Blow up and hard plastic pools do not come with filters and cannot be treated with chlorine, as their sizes are too small for an ideal dose of chlorine to be determined. Without the benefit of chemical treatment, inflatable pools come with an increased risk for spreading RWIs. This is why you should make it a point to fill your blow up pool with fresh water before each use. It helps to reduce chances of the pool being contaminated.

Always Supervise Children When They Are in or Around a Portable Pool

It only takes a few inches of water for a child to drown. Therefore, despite being much smaller than your average swimming pool, blow up pools still pose the risk of drowning especially where toddlers under the age of 5 are involved. For this reason, children using portable pools must be supervised at all times, whether they are in or around the pool.

By simply staying within arm's reach of your child, you will be able to act quickly should he/she accidentally fall into the water headfirst.

Empty, Clean, and Deflate the Pool After Each Use

Leaving a blow up pool filled with water not only creates a potential drowning risk but also increases chances of disease-spreading germs settling in the water. Always make sure you empty the pool after children are done playing. Most inflatable pools come with clear-cut cleaning instruction. If there are no instructions, a scrub using a disinfectant and water should be enough to leave the pool sparkling clean and germ free.

Put a Fence Around the Blow-Up Pool

Children are naturally attracted to pools without understanding the danger of drowning. This makes inflatable pools a great risk if you're not careful. In addition to being open sources of water, most kid pools feature bright colors, patterns, and drawings (some even have drawings of famous cartoon characters) that attract young children. Therefore, a child can easily wander off to an inflatable pool without the parent or guardian even noticing. Since the walls of blowup pools are flimsy and do not offer much support, a young child can easily fall into the pool and drown. Most fences designed for residential water bodies feature a gate that self-locks to ensure that a young child cannot get through without the help of an adult.

Storage

Always store portable pools safely away from young children. Ensure the pool cannot fill with rain water or water from sprinklers.

References

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/swimmers/inflatable-plastic-pools.html>
<https://childrenshealth.org/en/parents/water-safety.html>
<https://www.safekids.org/tip/water-safety-tips-home>
<http://www.nationalwatersafetymonth.org/water-safety-tips>