

# WATER SAFETY TIPS

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Every year, many young children drown in or around their own homes. Not all of these accidents happen in swimming pools. A small child can drown in quite a small amount of water, in a bucket of water for example. Buckets, bathtubs, coolers, fountains, fishponds, drains, inflatable pools, and even pet bowls all pose a significant drowning risk especially to younger children. It is crucial that these are emptied, covered, put away, and not left where they can fill up with water.

## ***Bathrooms can be very unsafe for young children if they are left alone.***

- It is dangerous for a young child to be in a bath alone.
- Make sure that the bathtub or shower drain plug can't be reached and the pop up stopper is open after each use.
- Make sure the sink has the drain plug out and pop up stoppers are open after each use.
- Keep bathroom doors closed to prevent small children from accessing alone.
- Use a rubber mat next to the bathtub or shower to help prevent slipping and falling.
- Keep the toilet seat closed when not in use.

## ***Small children are attracted to water wherever it is, even inside washing machines!***

- Make sure that the lid is closed on top-loading and front-loading washing machines.
- Make sure the sink has the drain plug out and pop up stoppers are open after each use.
- Keep laundry room doors closed to prevent small children from accessing alone.

## ***Outside the Home***

- Turn over empty buckets and containers outside so they don't hold water.
- Hot tubs need to have hard covers over them when they are not being used.
- Make sure that the hot tub cover is on and locked before any children go near it.
- Fishponds or fountains that hold water around them can be dangerous.
- Fishponds need to have covers over them to stop children from falling in.
- Never allow children to play in storm drainage areas at any time.
- Always tell children in your care that to stay S.A.F.E means to Stay Away From Edges.
- Remember that plants and grasses often hide the edge of waterways.

***Remember - anything that collects water can be a source of drowning danger.***

### References

<https://www.safekids.org/tip/water-safety-tips-home>

<http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/water-safety>