

Each year there are many drownings or injuries related to recreational pool use. Most occur through negligence, lack of supervision, hazards or filtration systems. Ensuring your pool is secure and cared for is paramount to successful summer safety.

## SWIMMING STATISTICS

- ⇒ On average, over 22 deaths a year occur in backyard pools
- ⇒ In Ontario between 2009 and 2013, the average fatality rate for children under 5 was 1.3 per 100,000 compared to the national rate of 1.1. In those years alone, 46 children under 5 drowned
- ⇒ 80% of fatalities among children occurred when there was no adult supervision
- ⇒ Only 16% of pool fences meet municipal by-law standards

## GENERAL POOL SAFETY

- ✓ **FENCING:** According to Bill 74, Swimming Pool Safety Act, 2006, 38:2, every owner of a swimming pool shall ensure that a fence is constructed and maintained around the area of the swimming pool.
- ✓ **ELECTRICITY:** Ensure that all electrical systems and equipment are installed to meet current guidelines and that they are regularly inspected and maintained.
- ✓ **DECKS:** Make sure your deck has a non-slip surface, and it is clear of toys and other objects that can cause tripping. Secure pool equipment to a fence or wall, and do not use them as toys.



## MANAGING YOUR POOL WATER

If allowed to grow and multiply, pathogenic bacteria and protozoa in your swimming pool can lead to diseases including legionella, cryptosporidium and E. coli.

If not managed correctly, chemical levels can result in water that causes eye and skin irritation.

## CHEMICAL SAFETY

- Store all pool chemicals out of reach and sight of children.
- Never add chemicals when swimmers are in the pool.
- Keep original lids on all chemical containers and make sure the lids are closed tightly when not in use.
- Before using chemicals, carefully read the label and follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Wear protective equipment AND wash your hands thoroughly after using chemicals.
- Do not smoke when using chemicals.
- Do not inhale dust or fumes of chemicals.
- Do not stack different chemicals on top of one another.
- Always add chemicals to water – never add water to chemicals.



*Close-up of chlorine burn on the thigh*

## SWIMMING SAFETY ADVICE

- ✓ Teach children to swim at a young age: 42% of drownings were a result of the victim being unable to swim.
- ✓ Never leave children unattended in or around a pool. Be observant and supervise all activities while children are swimming: 93% of children under 5 had absent or distracted supervision as a major risk factor that contributed to their drowning.
- ✓ Designated flotation devices keep children more buoyant and give them confidence while in the water. However, air-filled or foam toys like noodles are not life saving devices.
- ✓ At night, make sure there is enough lighting in and around the pool so that the bottom is always visible.
- ✓ Keep a phone in the pool area with emergency numbers nearby.
- ✓ Being trained in First Aid and CPR is a good precautionary measure for anyone supervising a pool area.
- ✓ Never keep the pool cover partially open because children can become trapped under it.

*SOURCES: Lifesaving Society, Government of Canada, Parachute Canada, CCOHS, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Red Cross*