

### Summary

The arrival of hot weather around much of the nation means many people and businesses are opening their swimming pool for the summer. Pool owners should make sure effective safety measures are taken to prevent an incident in or around the pool. To make your pool as safe as possible, use the following safety tips:

#### Pool Safety Measures:

- Check local ordinances and codes for safety requirements
- Use non-slip materials on the pool deck, diving board and ladders
- Pool ladder steps should be at least three inches wide, and the handrails on both sides small enough for a child to grasp. Provide a ladder at both ends of the pool
- Have all electrical equipment installed by a licensed electrician in accordance with local codes
- Check with a reputable pool contractor to be sure the depth is sufficient for a diving board or slide. Always put a slide in a deep area of the pool-- never in shallow water
- There should be a fence at least six feet high around all sides of the pool with a locked gate to keep children out when there is no supervision and the fence should be constructed so it is difficult to climb. Lawn furniture, trees and shrubs should not be close enough to provide an easy boost over the fence
- Mark water depths conspicuously. Use a safety float line where the bottom slope deepens
- Above-ground pools: Install sturdy guard rails around the pool deck. Look for rolled rims on the metal shell to be sure the rims do not present a sharp cutting edge if someone falls. The access ladder to the deck should be sturdy and without protruding bolts or other sharp edges. The access ladder should swing up to prevent children from unauthorized entry or should be easily removed for secure storage away from the pool area
- Check the pool and equipment periodically for cleanliness and good maintenance. Cover all sharp edges and protruding bolts; repair rickety or broken ladders and railings. Replace non-slip materials as needed

#### Use of the Pool:

- Teach children to float or swim as soon as possible
- Always provide competent adult supervision when the pool is in use
- Never swim alone
- Caution children against showing off and explain the dangers of running and diving recklessly
- Always go feet first when using water slides
- Before diving or sliding, check to be sure that other swimmers are out of the way
- Keep rescue devices and first aid supplies near the pool. A floating shepherd's crook is useful
- Teach children what to do in case of emergency
- Never swim after drinking alcoholic beverages, eating or taking medications

The goal is to make your pool as safe as possible. You can make your pool a safer and more enjoyable experience by utilizing these pool safety tips.

This information may not address all hazardous conditions at your location and does not warrant workplace safety or compliance with federal, state or local laws.