

ADULT HEALTH BULLETIN



JUNE 2025

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THIS MONTH'S TOPIC

WATER SAFETY IS FOR EVERYONE



Lots of summertime activities involve water. From swimming at the pool to visiting a lake or river, many people enjoy the water's views and cooling effects, whether for a family gathering or an afternoon of solitude.

It is important to remember that staying vigilant around any body of water is essential to keep everyone safe. Drowning is a leading cause of childhood death. It can occur at even relatively shallow depths. It can happen quickly and is often silent. Adults, even those who are familiar with water and can swim, can drown in certain circumstances.

Water activities are a great way to exercise and enjoy the great summer weather and environment. However, it is important to think about everyone's safety when deciding when, where, and

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how to make a splash. Keep the following tips in mind when planning your summer fun:

- **Adult supervision:** Constant and close supervision is crucial for children and non-swimmers, even when lifeguards are present. Avoid distractions like phones while watching the water. Do not assume someone else is watching children swim. Ask aloud and get confirmation before leaving your child under someone else's care while in the water, even briefly.
- **Learn to swim:** Swimming lessons are a great way to improve water safety skills and confidence. It is never too late to learn! Swimming lessons are great for children but are also offered for adults. Contact your local recreation department or aquatic center.
- **Life jackets:** Adults and children should wear properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets while boating or swimming in natural waters like rivers, lakes, and oceans. Never dive or swim when you cannot see under the water. Rocks, trees, or other natural objects can cause you to become trapped underwater.
- **Obey posted signs:** Pay attention to all hazard signs and warnings. Only swim in designated areas. Be mindful that heavy rainfall can affect the safety of swimming in lakes and rivers. Pay attention to local news coverage after flooding events.

- **Hidden hazards:** In natural environments, be aware of potential hazards like drop-offs into deep water, hidden debris, and slippery rocks. Wear water shoes with hard bottoms to protect your feet and toes.
- **Ocean currents:** If swimming in the ocean, learn about rip currents and how to escape them. If you get caught in a rip current, do not try to fight against it. Swim parallel to the shore until you're out of the current, then swim back to shore.
- **Backyard pools:** Ensure your backyard pool is fenced correctly on all sides. Empty small inflatable pools and other water toys after each use. Even buckets of water, koi ponds, and animal watering troughs can be tempting for young children and lead to disaster. Be aware of any standing water that young children can access and always supervise them.

REFERENCES:

<https://www.cdc.gov/drowning/prevention/summer-swim-safety.html> <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/water-safety>

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