



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PORTABLE POOLS

Are portable pools as dangerous as in-ground or other permanent pools?

Portable pools are just as dangerous as permanent pools, but there is often less awareness of the dangers they pose, and the same types of protections available for big pools just aren't there for kiddie and inflatable pools.

If I have a portable pool, do I have to have a fence?

Many communities have regulations related to portable pools, usually based on the height of the sides of the pool. However, even if a community does not have requirements, using precautions such as 4-sided isolation fencing for all pools, including portable pools, is recommended.

How can I decide what portable pool is best for me?

If it is not possible or likely that you will put a fence around the pool, it is important to get a pool with a safety cover and a removable or lockable ladder (if one is used to enter the pool), or to choose a pool that is small enough to be easily emptied and stored away after each use.

Isn't it obvious when someone is drowning?

No. Drowning doesn't actually look like it is shown in the movies. Drowning is quick, silent, and final. Children can drown in a few inches of water in just minutes and without a lot of splashing or noise.

What does active supervision mean?

When it comes to water safety, "touch" supervision – being close enough to a child to reach out and touch him or her at all times – is recommended for infants and toddlers. For older children, active supervision means an adult is focused on the child in or near water, not the phone, a book, or other distractions.

Can swim lessons keep kids safe from drowning?

Learning to swim helps reduce the risk of drowning – research has shown lessons can reduce child drowning risks for children as young as 1 year of age, but even strong swimmers can drown. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends parents use layers of protection such as:

- a fence that goes completely around the pool with a self-closing, self-locking gate
- closely supervising children at all times in or near any water
- using lifejackets on all young children and non-swimmers
- learning CPR

