

Holiday Safety: Prevent Deaths

Written by Staff Reporter

Wednesday, 01 June 2011 00:00



[Prevent Deaths](#) Pool Safety

[POOL ALARMS](#)

New York State enacted a Pool Alarm law that went into effect on December 14, 2006. All swimming pools installed, constructed or substantially modified on or after that date must be equipped with an approved pool alarm.

Under ASTM F2208 standards, the alarm must be capable of detecting a child entering the water, and an 85-plus-decibel warning must sound within 20 seconds at poolside and at another location on the premises - - preferably inside the house.

While the law only requires an alarm for new and remodeled pools, we strongly urge all pool owners to install a pool alarm. The additional layer of protection provided by this relatively inexpensive device can make the difference between life and death.

Consult with your pool professional about which approved pool alarm is right for you.

[SAFETY TIPS](#)

1. Never leave a child alone or out of your eyesight in or near the pool, spa or hot tub - - not even for a second. **THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR CONSTANT ADULT SUPERVISION!!!**

2. Access to the pool, spa or hot tub should be limited by locked doors and/or gates whenever swimming or soaking cannot be supervised. A pool alarm which is capable of detecting a child entering the water, and gives an audible alarm poolside and inside the house, provides an additional layer of protection.

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3. Keep toys, particularly tricycles or wheel toys, away from the pool, spa or hot tub. A child playing with these could accidentally fall into the water.

WARNING: Drowning is one of the leading causes of accidental death of infants and children under the age of five. There is no substitute for competent adult supervision in the swimming pool environment.