

Be Safe by the Water

Many Canadians enjoy water activities, such as boating and swimming. Each year, tragic and avoidable water-related fatalities occur across Canada.

Active supervision

- The absence of adult supervision is a factor in most child drownings.
- Whether it's a pool, the bathtub, a water park or the beach, always watch children actively around water, even if they can swim.
- Provide lifejackets to non-swimmers to keep them at the surface to assist you while supervising.

Backyard pools

- Backyard pools are especially dangerous for small children. Ensure adequate barriers are in place such as four-sided fencing with a self-closing, self-latching gate.
- Empty portable toddler pools after each use.

Bathing children

- When bathing infants or toddlers, an adult should remain with the child at all times. Children should never be relied upon to supervise other children in the bath.
- When a child is in the bathtub, never leave to answer the phone or for any other distraction.

Diving

- Diving headfirst into water should be avoided unless the individual is properly trained and is sure that the water is deep enough.
- Avoid diving in home pools and always enter the water feet first.

Open water

- Never underestimate the power of current. Swimmers or waders can be swept away in an instant, particularly if non-swimmers or weak swimmers get caught by current in rivers or out of their depth in abrupt drop-offs.
- Be cautious about swimming in currents and know what to do if caught in a current.

Pets

- Pets can drown. Limit swim time and provide an easy exit from the water. Don't let salt water or pool water dry on a pet's fur.

