

MAKE YOUR POOL SAFER FOR KIDS

# SWIMMING POOL SAFETY GUIDE

by **LIFE SAVER NEW YORK**

*"A Must-Read Guide for Every Parent" - Steve Berger, Owner*



(516) 766-5336

[www.poolfency.com](http://www.poolfency.com)



Pools help bring people together. They help create lifelong memories for children. And they are social centers. Owning a swimming pool is certainly one of the joys of life!

But pools are also a big responsibility for you, the parent, and we want to make sure we have done everything we can as parents to keep kids out of harm's way.

Using this guide as an introduction, it is our hope that you will educate yourself as much as possible and implement many of the safety measures that we discuss.

## Intro

Let's face the facts. Pools are fun but pools are very dangerous places, especially for children and toddlers. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), drowning ranks 5<sup>th</sup> among the leading causes of unintentional injury death in the United States.

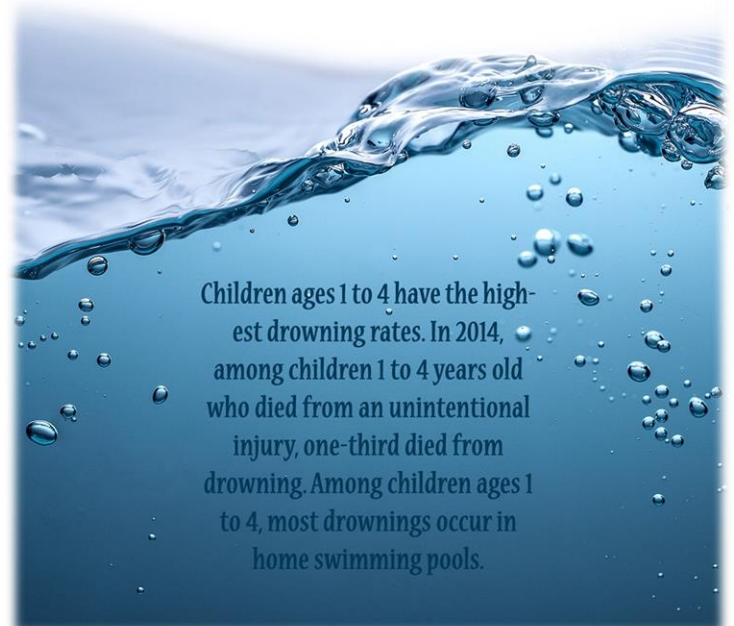
Below are some facts about drowning.

## Children Drowning Facts

- Child drowning can take place in just a matter of a few seconds. Drowning is largely silent.
- Nearly 800 children drown every year.
- Children ages 1-4 have the highest drowning rates.
- Among children ages 1-4, most drownings occur in home swimming pools.
- 75% of drowning incidents occur during summer months.
- Drowning injuries can cause severe brain damage that may result in long-term disabilities such as memory problems, learning disabilities, and permanent loss of basic functioning.



## Did You Know?



## 5 Misconceptions & Facts About Water Safety

Water safety myths give parents a false sense of security, thus putting children at risk when in or around bodies of water. Here are 5 misconceptions about child swim safety and relevant facts every parent should know.

**Misconception 1:** If a child is drowning, he/she can easily be heard.

**Fact:** In real life, drowning is silent. There is little screaming and splashing, making it almost impossible to notice.

**Misconception 2:** A child can be left alone in or around a swimming pool or body of water.

**Fact:** In reality, once a child starts to struggle, he/she can drown in a matter of few seconds.

**Misconception 3:** It is fine to leave a child swimming in a pool since a lifeguard is actively supervising.

**Fact:** It is the parents' responsibility to supervise their children while in the water. The primary responsibility of a Lifeguard is to ensure pool rules are being followed and to provide quick emergency response and rescue.

**Misconception 4:** A child had swimming lessons, and so there's a lesser chance of drowning.

**Fact:** Swimming is a good skill to learn, however, the level of proficiency is different for every child, and so it is not an assurance that a child would be safe to swim alone. In fact, 47% of those who drowned in swimming pools knew how to swim.

**Misconception 5:** Once a child knows how to swim, he/she doesn't need a life vest.

**Fact:** Water conditions change. When the water becomes cold and swift, the drowning risk increases. Wearing a life jacket improves the chance of survival.

### Factors Influencing Drowning Risk

- *Lack of Swimming Ability*
- *Lack of Pool Safety Barriers*
- *Lack of Adult Supervision*
- *Location*
- *Failure to Wear Life Jackets*
- *Seizure Disorders*





## How Do You Know If Someone Is Drowning?

**It is important to understand that drowning is not like what we see in movies.** Drowning doesn't look like drowning. The "tell-tale" signs can be very subtle, if you do not know what you are looking for. In fact, there is almost no splashing or screaming for help; it's not what we expect most of the time.

As cited by Coast Guard's On Scene magazine, here are some signs that will assist in determining if a person is drowning:

- A drowning person's head is tilted back, the mouth is not above the surface of the water, and alternately sinks, making it hard to breathe.
- Since there is difficulty of breathing, it's almost impossible to call and wave for help.
- A drowning person finds it hard to swim in a particular direction since he or she will not be able to control any arm movements.
- Usually, the body will be in an upright position and the drowning person will find it hard to use his or her legs and "appears to be climbing an invisible ladder."
- A drowning person has only 20 to 60 seconds of struggle and for someone to notice before the body will submerge.

**So how can you prevent drownings? Life Saver New York recommends that homeowners implement the following 7 layers of protection:**

1. Install pool alarms and door locks
2. Fence your entire pool
3. Provide early infant swim instruction
4. Supervise children at all times and designate a dedicated water watcher
5. Always check the pool first when children are missing
6. Verify any and all caretakers know CPR
7. Educate family members and babysitters on pool safety





# Be a LIFE SAVER

**L** Layers of Protection

**I** Install pool alarms and door locks

**F** Fence the pool

**E** Early infant swim instruction

**S** Supervise children and designate a water watcher

**A** Always check the pool first when children are missing

**V** Verify caretakers know CPR

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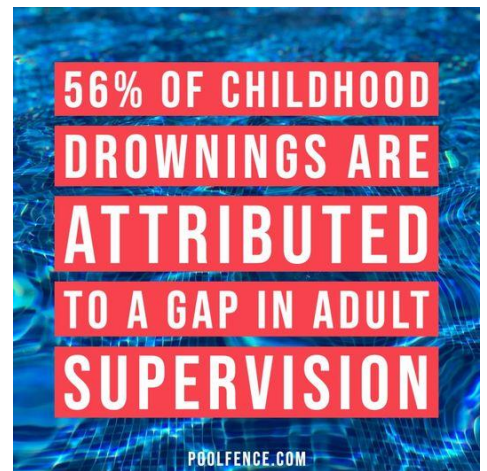
**R** Remember that drowning is silent and the #1 accidental killer of children aged 1-4

# POOL SAFETY TIPS

[www.poolfency.com](http://www.poolfency.com)

## Is Supervisions Enough To Help Improve Pool Safety for Kids? It's Critical. But It's One Component To Your Total Safety Plan.

When planning a pool party for our children, we tend to put more focus on the fun and games of the party. Any successful event is an event without accident or injury. **Pool safety should be our first priority** when owning a pool or when planning a swimming pool themed event for our children. Our guests will feel more at ease and more comfortable when we have instituted layers of protection. We need to come as close as possible to a fail-safe system of preventing drowning and near drowning incidents.



***Remember, there is no compromise when it comes to pool safety. We are dealing with a life and death situation.***

**Supervision is our first and most important layer in our rules. #1: Be at the pool and stay close by keeping children in sight at all times.**

- When having a party or just managing the household day to day, share the responsibility with other parents and adults.
- Get a whistle and put the whistle in the hand of the adult in charge of supervising for that time period.
- Use a timer to help take shifts with your Spouse or another adult.
- Pick a time frame where you know the Adult will be 110% focused on pool safety. What the whistle does more than anything else, is it becomes a reminder for the entire time period that you are the Life Guard, it's your job, you cannot be focused on anything else whatsoever at all. It also gives everyone a chance to have fun knowing that there is someone doing nothing else other than supervising the activities in and around the pool. Your family and guests must understand that for that time period, the person supervising cannot be distracted.

Sometimes the pool can get a bit crowded. You may have older kids jumping in the pool and creating waves. If there are younger ones in floats, chairs or other toys waves could cause them to take on the water. Just like a blow-up bouncer for a party, we never let older kids and toddlers in the bouncy at the same time. Why? Because we don't want our little kids to get hurt. It is the same idea when it comes to a pool but 1 million times worse. We need to keep horseplay to a minimum and to separate the pool time for older kids and toddlers. This is all part of your role as Supervisor!



***When you have a pool party, wouldn't it be wise to have life vests for at least your young guests on hand?***

Swimming pools are a leading cause of child drownings and yet many of us never think about what we could do to make our pools safer. You would never leave a loaded gun on a coffee table in your house, especially with children around. Then why would we have an unprotected swimming pool around our kids? The outcome of both is the same and there really is no difference. It's just a matter of time until that gun goes off.



## Life Saver New York's Top Pool Safety Tips To Help Prevent Drowning

A child can drown in the time it takes to answer a phone call. Never leave children unattended, not even for a minute. Child drowning is a silent death. There are no splashing or sounds to alert someone that a child is struggling. Additionally, there have been reports about kids being involved in pool accidents that resulted in grave injuries.

**Parents: Be a Life Saver. Start by using the simple Pool Safety Evaluation below.**

# Pool Safety EVALUATION

Drowning is the number one cause of accidental death for children 1-4 years old. Multiple layers of protection are the solution. The more layers of protection in place, the safer the pool and the closer you are to a fail-safe system.

Visit [www.poolfency.com](http://www.poolfency.com) for more information.



### How Many Layers of Protection Do You Have in Place?

 High locks on all doors and windows that lead to the pool	 Alarms on all the doors and windows that lead to the pool	 No doggy door/sealed doggy door leading to the pool
 Pool safety fence with a self-closing, self-latching gate between the home and pool that isolates the pool	 Automatic pool safety cover.	 Pool net
 Perimeter fence around the entire backyard	 Children under 5 wear personal immersion alarms, e.g. Safety Turtle	 Alarm in the pool that detects entry
 All children in the house over 12 months old have completed/are enrolled in swim survival training	 All adults in the house know how to swim	 All adults in the house know CPR.
 You use Water Watcher lanyards during pool time	SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS : _____ _____ _____	

**We want to reemphasize that there is no substitute for active adult supervision.** Never allow any child to swim alone. It is very important to actively supervise your children whenever they are in and around your swimming pool. This means that your kids, especially if you have infants or toddlers, should be within arm's reach. If there are several children swimming, designate someone to supervise for a certain amount of time to prevent gaps in supervision. Having someone who knows CPR is also important and will give you peace of mind. It's a skill that will save anyone's life.

Make sure there is an adult around to supervise your children when the pool is in use at all times. Just make sure to avoid being distracted. Your eyes should be glued to the child (or children) you're supervising. This is a difficult task because people are distracted so easily, whether it's by a phone call, text or a social media notification.

Unfortunately, 69% of drowning accidents happen when one (or both) parents were responsible for watching a child. Supervision is the key to avoiding drowning fatalities. Take our pool safety evaluation and see your pool safety opportunities!

**In addition to Supervisions, it is important (as much as it sounds obvious) to make sure your children can swim.**

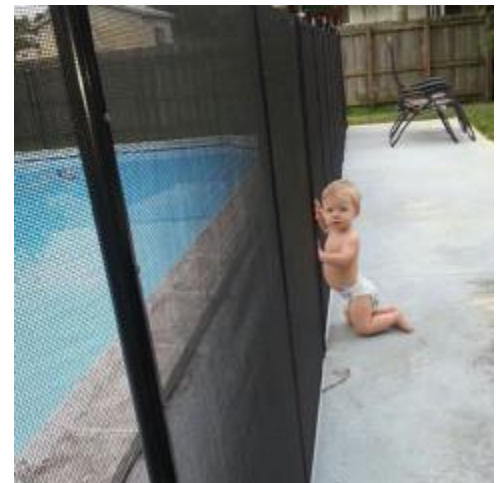
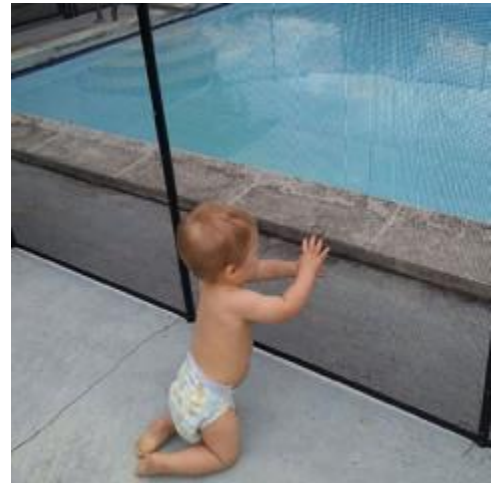
Teaching them how to swim with an instructor is essential. Early Infant Swim (ISR) has gained significant traction as a key part of protecting infants and children from drowning. It is also critical to make sure that children stay away from drains and that you have a proper drain cover installed.

**It is important to educate your kids about swimming safety, especially if it's their first time to swim in the pool.** You can enroll your children in swimming classes if you think they are ready. It is important to teach your children with the basics like how to float, tread water, and stay by the edge. You also have to make sure they only swim in designated areas. They need to be aware of how deep the water is and for uneven surfaces. If it's their first time, teach them to never go in the pool unless you are present.

**For kids who are inexperienced swimmers, have them wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets.** For any circumstance, never allow your child who doesn't know how to swim, into the pool without wearing a life vest.

**Ensure there is at least one person who knows how to respond to emergencies especially someone who knows how to perform CPR.** It is highly recommended for to take water safety and first aid courses.

**Take extra steps by securing your swimming pool with quality barriers (see our below list for a general idea of products used in homes like yours).** Having barriers surrounding the swimming





pool can block access to smaller kids and can essentially prevent any accidents. Quality barriers will be your first line of defense. They could make the difference between life and death.

**Install pool alarms and door locks too.** Create more obstacles. Any door that can provide direct access to the swimming pool should be equipped with a pool alarm. The alarm should produce an audible warning when the door or the pool gate is opened and should sound for at least 30 seconds after the door is opened. Also, make sure that the alarm can be heard throughout the house. You should be able to deactivate the alarm manually temporarily or choose one that resets under all conditions. Not sure what type of pool safety alarm to install? No problem. There is a variety to choose from.



As parents, we need to take responsibility and become accountable for safety. Taking proactive measures as a parent to keep your pool safe can be the difference between life and death.

**While there is no substitute for proper supervision, pool safety products are a critical component to keeping children and even family animals away from the pool.**

## Swimming Pool Safety Products

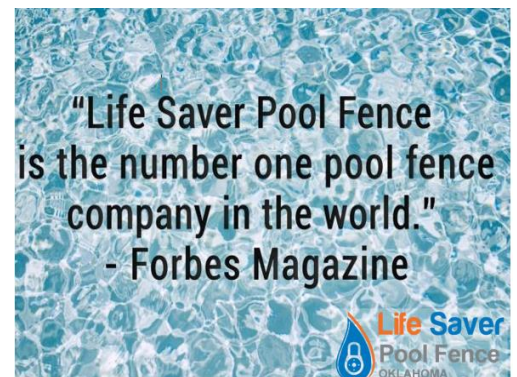
Below are the necessary barrier requirements for residential swimming pools. We advise that you call a professional to determine your exact needs and specifications. Below are general guidelines.



## Pool Fences

Pool fences separate the swimming pool from the rest of your property without leaving any open areas. It is important to install fences that are tailored based on the safety needs.

The [pool fences](#) should completely surround the swimming pool and must be at least 4 feet tall. The space between the ground and the bottom of the fence should not go beyond 2 inches. Any opening should be small enough to obstruct passage of smaller children through the opening. Life Saver New York can help you determine your exact needs during one of our free in home estimates.



## Pool Gates

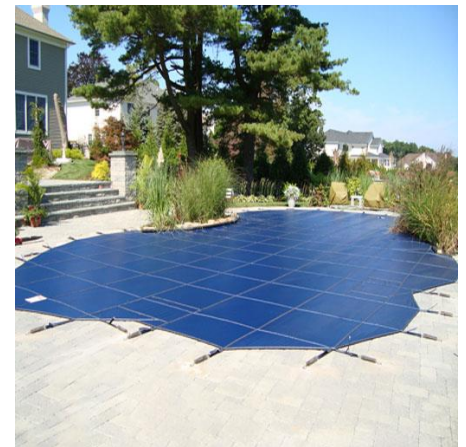
Swimming pool gates must satisfy the requirements applicable to pool fences. You must install [pool gates](#) that are self-closing, self-latching and key-lockable. The latch handle should be at least 54 inches above grade and is located within the enclosure. Also, it must open outward. A self-closing gate will give you peace of mind at times when your child goes out of sight.



## Pool Safety Cover

If there are no barriers installed, the swimming pool should be equipped with a powered pool safety cover that conforms to the standard labeling requirements for covers of all kinds of swimming pools. Use a pool cover that can hold substantial weight. It is also important to remove any ladder or steps that can be used to access the pool.

[Pool safety](#) is all about planning and getting as close as possible to that fail safe system. It is year round not just for the summer season. Have as many layers of protection as possible when you own a pool. Have a definitive set of pool rules, where there is no leeway only your way. Be a dictator when it comes to those rules. Lives depend on it.



***Remember, when it comes to safety, there is no room for error. Take the first step and be proactive about how your approach safety in your home.***

## Still Have Questions?

We look forward to hearing from you whether you have a question, would like someone from our team to evaluate your pool's safety, or if you have a specific need this time of year that we can help fulfill.

## Contact Us Today For Your FREE Safety Evaluation

Give us a call and talk to a professional. We aim to schedule a consultation within 24 hours and most often can install a pool fence within one week. We look forward to speaking with you.

Nassau County: 516-766-5336

Suffolk County: 631-766-5336

## Why Choose Life Saver Pool Fence?

Why Install A Life Saver Pool Fence from Life Saver New York?

- Patented, virtually unbreakable solid core pole, strongest in the industry
- Textilene® high mil mesh (12-12 mil) with Marine grade thread woven with a basket weave. Tensile strength rating of over 387 pounds per square inch.
- QuadStitch™ 4 stitched reinforced vinyl borders. Pool fence mesh is bordered on all four sides with vinyl border to prevent unraveling and a finished look.
- Tension-based supports provide superior stability
- Multiple height options (from 3 ½ ft to 5 ft)
- Square and arched pool gate options
- Wide selection of colors with see through mesh design
- Self-latching and self-closing gate options
- Round-head fasteners and rounded edges mean there are no sharp edges
- Pool fencing sections placed into aluminum or plastic sleeves & installed into your deck surface.
- Removable, easy to store (roll up in sections) though we recommend keeping them up year-round.
- Triple reinforced solid poles on our Life Saver Solid Core Pool Fence provide omni-directional solid support.
- Limited lifetime warranty! Made in the USA! UV Resistant components that protect the fence from sun damage. Proven and tested. Trained local pool fence installers
- Omni hangers and pool light accessories available



Did you know? Mesh safety fence can be used for pools, backyards, by garages, lanais, landscaped & sloped areas, near any body of water, etc.



## Our Difference:

**We own the Manufacturing; we are not just a local dealer.** That means we are accountable and take full ownership over the quality of our products as well as the installation service you receive. Our patented solid core pole is the strongest in the entire industry!

**Full lifetime warranty.** Beyond our real lifetime warranty on our products, rest assured that we will be there for you from day one to years later, as your needs change. Whether the ground shifts and you need an adjustment or your need an upgrade or new fence, we have customers for life.

**No Deposits upfront.** We get paid in full when your pool fence installation is complete. We never require a payment upfront. That's our 100% commitment to you.

**Free estimates at your home.** When you call us, we aim to schedule a visit to your home within 24 hours and determine exactly what you need. It is our goal to install your pool safety fence in one week.

**We return every call.** That's our guarantee. From your first point of contact, deal with the Owners. We are here for our customers, from day one on.



### References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/water-safety/waterinjuries-factsheet.html>

Pool Safely

<http://www.poolsafely.gov/parents/safety-tips/>

Life Saver of New York

<http://www.poolfency.com/swimming-pool-safety/>

# Secure Your Swimming Pool. Keep Your Family Safe.

Call Us Today For More Information

**Life Saver New York**

(516) 766-5336

[www.poolfency.com](http://www.poolfency.com)



## FEATURED ON



**CUSTOMER REVIEW**   
**Life Saver Pool Fence New York**



**HEATHER W.**



This company is very professional and comes highly recommended. Everything about this entire process was excellent. After debating to get a fence installed at our new house, my husband and I contacted Steve after a referral from someone. Steve came, with his wife, and was extremely professional and honest. Without question, this was the company we wanted to install our pool fence. We were leary about the install because you never know who will show up that day. We had a very professional installer and everything came out perfect. We are VERY happy with the install and great customer service. We have already recommended their service to another family member and they had a fence installed too and are very happy.

[www.poolfency.com](http://www.poolfency.com)

**CUSTOMER REVIEW** 

**Life Saver Pool Fence New York**



**NEAL**



"Excellent customer service - had the job completed quickly. Quality of work and personnel was outstanding. Very happy."

[www.poolfency.com](http://www.poolfency.com)