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EVERYONE CAN BE A LIFESAVER



Royal Life Saving
ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY - AUSTRALIA



FACT SHEET No.10

Wading Pools



Q. What are wading pools?

A. Wading pools, also known as paddling pools, inflatable pools, portable pools and inflatable wading pools, are pools that can be purchased and set up at home for personal use. There are many different types which range from small pools designed for a young child to larger pools that can hold over 10 adults.

Q. Do I need to fence my wading pool?

A. By law in all Australia, all bodies of water over 300mm deep that are designed for human aquatic use must be fenced. Fencing involves isolating the pool from the home with a well-constructed and well-maintained barrier and a gate that self-closes and self-latches. Most States and Territories have programs in place where pool owners can be fined for non-compliance.

Q. What are some of the safety issues with wading pools?

A. Drowning of young children under five years of age in inflatable pools is the greatest risk. Parents often do not actively supervise their children when they are in inflatable wading pools or leave them alone for a second to retrieve something from the house, believing that because there is only a small amount of water their child cannot drown. Some parents also forget to drain and deflate these pools after use, and small children can wander away and drown in a pool that was not emptied after use or has filled with rainwater.

Q. Do I need to supervise my child or children when they are in a wading pool?

A. You should always actively supervise children when they are in, on, or around the water (including wading pools). You should be within arms' reach of your child at all times and actively supervising. This means all of your attention should be on the child all of the time, it is not a casual glance from inside the house to your child playing outside, or an occasional look while doing other things.

Q. How can I make my wading pool safer?

A. Fill the pool with only a small amount of water. Securely fence any pool that exceeds 300mm in depth. Ensure children are actively supervised and within arms' reach of a responsible adult at all times. Do not exceed the number of children or adults the pool can safely hold. Always drain and deflate the pool when not in use.

Real Life Story - Wading pool drowning death

A two year old girl has drowned in a wading pool in the backyard of her house. The girl found her way back into the wading pool after having played in it earlier in the day. Her death follows three similar incidents over the summer. Royal Life Saving is urging parents to always actively supervise children of all ages when using inflatable wading pools and to drain and deflate them when not in use.

ROYAL LIFE SAVING HAS DEVELOPED A NUMBER OF
FACT SHEETS ON WATER SAFETY ISSUES IN AUSTRALIA.

Contact Royal Life Saving on: **1300 737 763**
or download them from: **www.keepwatch.com.au**

Wading Pools Safety Checklist:

- Pool filled with only a small amount of water
- Children actively supervised within arms' reach by a responsible adult
- Not exceeding the number of adults or children the pool can safely hold
- Pool securely fenced if over 300mm in depth
- Pool drained and deflated when not in use
- Pool stored out of reach of children, somewhere it cannot collect rainwater

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