

07

EVERYONE CAN BE A LIFESAVER



Royal Life Saving
ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY - AUSTRALIA



FACT SHEET No.07

Home Water Safety



Q. What areas around the home can present a drowning risk?

A. The backyard pool and spa are obvious places in which drowning deaths can and have occurred. However, there are many other aquatic areas around the home which present a threat to young children including buckets and other vessels that can contain water. Parents/carers must remember to always empty the bathtub, close the bathroom door, empty eskies and buckets and store out of reach of children.

Q. Where have drowning deaths around the home occurred in the past?

A. Drowning deaths have occurred in the following places:

- Buckets
- Inflatable pools
- Eskies
- Water tanks
- Irrigation channels
- Swimming pools
- Dams / Rivers
- Bathtubs
- Drains
- Pet bowls
- Spas
- Creeks/Streams
- Fishponds
- Water features / fountains

Q. When do drowning deaths around the home occur?

A. Studies show the majority of toddler drowning deaths peak when parents' attention may be divided such as the arrival home of other siblings or the preparation of evening meals. Be aware of additional distractions and do not let them interfere with constant visual supervision of your child when in, on, or around water.

Q. How can I supervise children at social settings?

A. Often at parties and gatherings people can assume that someone else is watching the child/children. In fact, it is possible that no one is supervising. Nominating a designated "child supervisor" during parties is a way of ensuring that children are supervised at all times. If this person needs to leave for any reason, ensure a new supervisor is appointed or regularly rotate the supervision responsibilities. If alcohol is being consumed, supervisors should be sober. A designated child supervisor hat is available to help with supervision and can be purchased from www.keepwatch.com.au

Q. Can I get my older children to look after the younger ones?

A. Never leave young children in the care of older children (under 16).

Real Life Story - Esky Drowning Death

A family learned firsthand of the dangers household objects can present to children when their 2 year old drowned in an esky at a family celebration. The ice in the esky had melted and after dropping a toy into the esky, the 2 year old tried to retrieve it, but fell in and was unable to get out. As a result the little girl was trapped in the esky and drowned in just a small amount of water. This tragedy is a warning to all parents to take care to remove or secure all drowning hazards in and around their homes.

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**

Home Water Safety Checklist:

- Checked for water dangers such as open drains around the home
- Set of rules established for your children around water
- Child Safe Play Area established. Visited www.keepwatch.com.au for Child Safe Play Area information and Fact Sheet No. 6
- Buckets emptied and put away out of child's reach
- Empty inflatable pools and put them securely away after use

DROWNING HAPPENS QUICKLY AND SILENTLY!

ALWAYS KEEP WATCH OVER YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME.

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