

## Paddling Pools and Swimming Pools Requirements

Unlike professionally-run swimming pools, which have filter systems and are treated with a chlorine-based treatment, the majority of at-home paddling/inflatable swimming pools will be filled with water from the mains. Although this water does have a certain amount of disinfectant in it – due to the fact that household water is centrally treated to make it safe – this small amount will diminish during the day, as disinfectant is broken down by the sun's UV rays.

Pools can quickly become a bacterial soup with bacteria and viruses from children and debris picked up on feet, and other parts of the body, before going into the pool. Infections such as athlete's foot, verruca's and stomach bugs can fester in water over time and pass from person to person.

- Pools must be included in a childminding risk assessment
- A pool hygiene record is required for static/larger pools which includes legionella and the use of cleaning products/chemicals e.g. chlorine
- Fresh water to be used in paddling pools at least every day – drain it when not in use and let it dry and use an antibacterial spray to kill any germs so it is safe to use the next day.
- Static/larger pools to be covered overnight to protect the water from insects. The cover must be taut so if a child stood/leant on it they would not fall in and be submerged with a cover around them. It also needs to be taut so water does not accumulate on it as babies and small children can drown in 5cms of water.
- The pool area will need to be fenced off to allow garden space to be used safely whilst preventing access to the pool when it is not in use.
- Steps should be removed when the pool is not in use.
- If a child has an accident or mosquitos can be seen breeding in the water it needs to be changed and cleaned before it is used again.
- Please ensure a member of the SEYT to visit and support you in ensuring pools are safe and fun

Drowning Prevention Information from the Child Accident Prevention Trust

<https://www.capt.org.uk/keeping-your-child-safe-from-drowning>

Children should be supervised in the water at all times. Do not rely on older children to supervise.

It's not just young children who are at risk. Older children and teens can get into trouble, especially while 'wild' swimming. Strong currents, deep water and objects lurking under the water are unlikely to be obvious.

Don't assume that because a child can swim, they will be safe.

Drowning happens silently. As drowning occurs, the instinctive drowning response means that a child is unable to speak or to control their arm movements, and they slip quietly under the water – it's a myth that they splash about, shout or scream.

Even if you've taken steps to make your garden or environment safe, children have drowned after wandering into neighbouring gardens. Be mindful of this at home and on trips and visits.

RoSPA research shows the most common times for children to drown on holiday are the first and the last days – don't let your guard down at any time.

At the beach, wind blowing off the land can make the sea look flat, calm and safe but it can easily sweep inflatables quickly out to sea, and children will be tempted to go after them.

Finally, expect children to do unexpected things. They can't be relied on to keep themselves safe, even if they say they can!