

## Bucket Safety

Since 1984 nearly 300 children have died in bucket related drownings. In the U.S. about 25 children drown every year in buckets & many more are hospitalized. Most of the



containers involved in these accidents were 5-gallon buckets containing various liquids & nearly all were less than half full. Children are naturally curious & easily attracted to water. At their crawling & pulling up stages while learning to walk, they can quickly get into trouble.

The suspected cause of these tragedy's are children crawling to a bucket containing mop water or other liquid, climbing up, leaning forward to play or look in the water, & toppling into the bucket, where they are unable to free themselves & drown. The 5-gallon bucket is particularly dangerous (even when only partly filled) because its heavier weight makes it more stable than smaller buckets & less likely to tip over when a child uses it to pull up. These containers are about half the height of the infants & when filled with several gallons of water, outweigh the children grabbing them.

- Never leave any bucket of water or other liquid unattended when small children are near.
- Even a small amount of liquid can be a drowning hazard.
- When doing household chores, immediately empty out buckets when finished, or move them to a safe place before taking a break.



**Slips and Falls:** Prevent bathtub slips and falls by placing a rubber mat in the tub or affixing non-slip adhesive decals or strips to the bottom of the tub. Be sure to use (and teach your child to use) extra caution and keep a non-slip bathroom rug by the side of the tub for you or your child to step onto after bathing.

**Electrical hazards:** Keep electrical devices (including hair dryers, curling irons, electric razors, etc.) well away from the tub. If you use electrical devices around water use battery-operated appliances instead of cord-connected appliances.



**ALWAYS watch your children around water: inside the home, around the pool, & around the yard.**

**A child can drown in the time it takes to answer a telephone.**

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# DROWNING PREVENTION



**KNOW  
YOUR  
ABC'S OF  
WATER  
SAFETY**

San Bernardino County  
Fire Department

Community Safety Division

# Children drown without a sound...

Too often we hear people say, "it was just for a minute." Unfortunately, a minute is all it takes for a child to drown. Most children drown in their own backyard swimming pool, others drown in buckets, bathtubs, toilets, pet watering bowls, canals, and ponds. Small children are top-heavy and don't have the upper body strength to lift themselves out of these dangerous situations. Even if the child survives the incident, they are often left with permanent brain damage.

**Drowning & near drowning can be prevented.**

## A few important tips for water safety:

- Post the **9-1-1** number on/near the phone.
- No one should ever swim alone, unexpected accidents happen: slips, falls, cramps, rip tides, etc.
- Never swim while under the influence of alcohol or medications.
- Never swim when thunder or lightning is present.
- Never dive into unfamiliar or shallow bodies of water.



## ABC'S of Pool Safety

### A: Active Adult Supervision

- ★ **Assign ONE adult to supervise kids in & around the pool & spa.** (confusion of who's supervising leads to unmonitored children)
- ★ **Supervision means eye to eye contact.** (No activity requiring spending ANY time looking away from children)
- ★ **Remove kids from the pool & spa for any distraction** (telephone call, bathroom breaks, etc.)
- ★ **Floaties & other inflatable flotation devices are NOT life jackets. Never substitute for adult supervision.**



### B: Barriers-Multiple Layers is safest!!

- ★ **Have a fence enclosure that isolates the pool & spa from the home, play areas, front/side yards, & neighbor's yard.**
- ★ **Be sure all gates on the isolation fence are self-closing & self-latching.**
- ★ **Use an approved swimming pool and spa cover.**
- ★ **Use an approved swimming pool and spa alarm.**
- ★ **Have exit alarms on ALL doors/windows leading outside to the pool or spa area.**
- ★ **Keep all doors/windows leading to the swimming pool or spa area locked.**
- ★ **Chairs, tables, toys, & other objects that could allow children to climb up to reach or go over the isolation gate or fence need to be removed or kept inside the fence.**

### C: Classes- Fist Aid/CPR

- ★ **Learn how to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. (CPR)**
- ★ **Enroll your children in swimming lessons.**



## Bathtub Safety

**Supervision: NEVER** leave a child unattended in the bathtub for ANY REASON. There is nothing important enough to risk drowning! Children can drown in just a few inches of water, and can easily topple into the tub while you're dashing out to answer the phone, get a towel, etc.

**Bath seats.** Several types of bath seats adhere to the bottom of the tub with suction cups and offer bathing infants and toddlers support while sitting. Do not think that you can leave your child unattended. The suction cups can come loose, the seat can tip over, and it isn't hard for a child to slide out of the seats.

**Get supplies first.** Collect soap, towel, diaper, clothing, toys, and any other items you plan on using before you even run the bath water. Place these items where you can reach them easily.

**Water heater.** To reduce the risk of scalding, set your home's water heater to a maximum of 120 degrees. A good test: You should be able to hold your hand comfortably under the tap even when the hot water alone is running.

**Faucet covers.** Placing a soft, insulated cover over the bathtub faucet is a prudent safeguard against accidental burns or bumps. They are available at any baby supply stores.

# Drownings happen in an inch of water.