

9 MYTHS OF DROWNING



1. Is drowning really a problem?

A. Yes. Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 1-4 in California. A residential pool is 14 times more likely to cause a death than an automobile.

2. Don't more children die in open water than in pools?

A. No. 50% of deaths by drowning occur in residential pools.

3. Isn't it more important to have a locked gate to keep neighbors out?

A. No. 65% of the children were at their own home at the time of the incident. 46% of the children were last seen safe inside the house just before the drowning. 72% had direct access to the pool once they were outside the house.

4. Isn't it just parental neglect that causes drowning?

A. No. According to the U.S. CPSC Drowning Study, conscientious parents who understand the need for supervision were almost always present.

5. Won't swimming lessons protect a child from drowning?

A. No. Swimming lessons do not prepare a child for a drowning or a near drowning situation.

6. Isn't constant supervision enough to prevent drowning?

A. No. We recommended "layers" of protection which include a well maintained non-climbable fence with a self-closing, self-latching gate, alarm systems, powered safety pool covers, and self-closing, self-latching doors with automatic sliding door closers.

7. Is there any proof that fences or safety barriers work? Can't a child climb over a fence?

A. In studies conducted in Australia and New Zealand, the findings suggest that adequate, four sided pool fencing reduced drownings by 80%. Studies in Arizona demonstrated a 50% reduction.

8. Won't fences detract from the aesthetics of pools?

A. There are several kinds of fences to choose from which meet safety requirements and there are also alternatives such as an approved safety cover.

9. Do pool owners without young children need to install protective barriers??

A. 35% of residential drownings are not at the home of the victim.