

## For large inflatable and portable pools that can hold **less than 30cm** of water (the size of an average ruler)

- **Always empty the pool** when it is not in use. You may wish to recycle the water for use in the garden or other areas around the home. Leaving water in the pool is not only a drowning risk but water left in the pool can become unclean and cause ill health.
- **Always store the pool away** from young children when it is not in use. Storing the pool upright will prevent small amounts of water being collected in the pool as a result of rain or nearby sprinklers.



### Always remember to:

- **Always supervise children** from within arm's reach when they are in and around the water.
- **Older siblings should not be relied upon** to supervise younger children, no matter how confident you are about their ability to watch the younger child. Children are not capable of such responsibility.
- **Learn Infant and Child Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).**
- **Familiarise your children with water** and teach them to swim, but never assume that they are not likely to drown.

It can only take seconds for a child to drown.

**kids health**  
the children's hospital at Westmead  
Child Health Promotion Unit

If you need an interpreter and want to contact a service please ring the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450  
For more information, please call Kids Health at The Children's Hospital at Westmead on (02) 9845 3585 or please visit:  
<http://kidshealth.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/projects/drowning-prevention/inflatable-and-portable-pools>



# Kids can drown without a sound!

Even in small or large portable pools, kids can drown in seconds!



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the children's hospital at Westmead  
Child Health Promotion Unit

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the children's hospital at Westmead  
The Centre for Trauma Care, Prevention,  
Education and Research



the children's hospital at Westmead

# Kids can drown without a sound!

Drowning is a leading cause of death for children under five years of age.

Pools are an obvious risk but children can also drown in baths, dams, rivers, creeks, garden ponds and even nappy buckets. Once a young child's face is underwater, the child is unable to pick themselves up as their head is heavier than their bodies. Most parents and carers believe they will be able to hear if their child is drowning. This, however, is not true as water in the airway can block any sound from being heard. Drowning is a very quick and quiet event.

- Over a quarter of all drowning deaths among children in backyard swimming pools occur in inflatable or portable pools.
- There are many more near drowning incidents that occur, some of which result in lifelong brain damage for the child.

Inflatable and portable pools are a popular option for a lot of families. But, there are dangers that all pool owners should be aware of.

Inflatable and portable pools are said to be more of a risk to children than pools that have been built with fences. This is because many people are not aware that these pools may need to have fences and some are not able to be emptied after use due to their size. Because of this, children have easy access to the water in the pool, placing them at a very high risk of drowning.

**Inflatable and portable pools are dangerous!**

There will be times when parents and carers are unable to actively supervise young children for every minute of the day. A large majority of children who drown in backyard swimming pools do so without the knowledge of the parent or carer.

Supervision of children around water is the best protection for children against drowning. However, it is easy for parents and carers to be distracted by everyday tasks such as hanging the washing on the line or answering the telephone.

This is why pool fencing can be a very important second layer of protection to stop children gaining access to the water in the pool. For tips on how to make sure your pool fence is safe and complies with the legislation, please refer to the Protect Your Pool, Protect Your Kids checklist, available on the Kids Health website. This checklist is available in a number of community languages.

**For large inflatable and portable pools that can hold more than 30cm of water (the size of an average ruler)**

- Only use large inflatable or portable pools if they are able to be fenced.
- Fines apply if you do not have a four-sided fence around inflatable and portable pools that can be filled with more than 30cm of water (the size of an average ruler).

