

## Prevent Entrapment

Entrapment caused by a powerful suction from a pool or spa drain can trap a child or adult under water. Hair or jewelry can become entangled in a faulty or broken drain cover. The best defense against entrapment is to prevent it before it happens. Children's public wading pools, other pools designed specifically for children and in ground spas that have flat drains pose the greatest risk of entrapment. Proper installation of anti-entrapment drain covers and back up devices, where needed, can make drain entrapment less likely.

- Teach children about the dangers of swimming around drains. Children should not swim or play near any drain or suction outlet.
- Do not use a pool or spa with loose, broken or missing drain covers. Contact a lifeguard or the owner about this hazard immediately.
- Make sure all pools and spas have compliant anti-entrapment drain covers as outlined in the *Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act*. These devices make pools and spas safer places for children to swim.



- If your drain cover was installed before 2009 or you have specific questions about the safety of the drain cover that is installed in your pool or spa, contact a qualified pool professional to have your drain inspected.

## In Memory of Virginia Graeme Baker

The *Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act (P&SS Act)* takes its name from Virginia Graeme Baker (Graeme), a young girl who drowned after she was trapped under water by the powerful suction from a hot tub drain in 2002.

According to the *P&SS Act*, all operating public pools and spas must have new anti-entrapment drain covers and only these new compliant covers can be sold in the U.S.



Signed into law on December 19, 2007, the *P&SS Act* became law due to the tireless efforts of Graeme's mother, Nancy Baker, her grandfather, former Secretary of State James A Baker III, Safe Kids USA, congressional leaders and dozens of other stakeholders.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is the lead enforcement agency for the *P&SS Act*. The agency's *Pool Safely* education campaign aims to reduce entrapment and drowning incidents by informing the public, industry and state and local regulators about pool and spa safety. For more information on the *P&SS Act* and steps you can take to make you and your family safer, visit [www.PoolSafely.gov](http://www.PoolSafely.gov).



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# Pool & Spa Safety



## Always Supervise

- Always watch children when they are in or near water – never leave children alone.



- Inexperienced swimmers should be within an adult's reach when they are in the water.
- Have designated "water watchers" – responsible adults who are only focused on supervising children.



- If a child is missing, check the water first.
- Have a phone close by in case there is an emergency.

## Install Barriers



- Residential pools and spas should be surrounded on all sides by a fence at least 4-feet high with self-closing and self-latching gates.



- Doors, windows and gates leading to the water should be secured with alarms to notify caregivers that a child may be near the pool or spa. Pool alarms are also available.
- When not in use, pools and spas should be covered and secured, and ladders to above ground pools and spas should be locked or removed.

## Know The Skills

- Swimming is an important skill to know, but keep in mind that knowing how to swim does not prevent drowning.



- Teach children water safety skills appropriate for their age – enroll children in swim lessons.
- Use life jackets when appropriate. Products such as swimming noodles and water wings are not safety devices – they should never be used in the place of U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets.



- Know how to perform CPR and use rescue equipment.