

The Facts

Florida leads the country in drowning deaths of children ages 1–4.

- Drowning is silent and only takes a minute.
- The monetary cost of drowning in Florida for a year is greater than \$15 million.
- The Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act, F.S. Chapter 515, requires only one physical barrier for pools built after 2000.
- Over 90% of Florida's home swimming pools were built before the law.
- The Florida Department of Health strongly recommends multiple barriers to help ensure safety and using "layers of protection" to help prevent drowning.

Injury Prevention Program

The Florida Department of Health, Injury Prevention provides the statewide coordination and expansion of injury prevention activities (data collection, surveillance, education and the promotion of interventions) through and with communities, county health departments and other state agencies with expertise and guidance in injury prevention.

Water Safety is Everyone's Responsibility



1-877-362-5033

4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A22
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1722

FloridaHealth.gov/Injury
WaterSmartFL.com

Florida
HEALTH



Drowning is preventable.

Resources for local Swim Lessons:

Billy Jernigan Pool
1301 Walker Avenue SW
Live Oak, FL 32064
386-364-4700 Pool office
<https://suwanneeparks.com/pool/>

Jared Allison Aquatic Complex
426 SW St. Johns Street
Lake City, FL 32055
386-319-7226
<https://www.columbiak12.com/en-US/aquatic-complex-87f86966>

WaterSmartFL

WaterSmartFL is a state drowning prevention task force created in partnership with the Florida Department of Health, Injury Prevention Program and the Florida Alliance of YMCAs. The statewide task force promotes the importance of keeping children safe when in or near the water by incorporating "layers of protection": supervision, barriers, and preparedness.

Layers of Protection

Supervise

The most crucial layer of protection, means someone is always actively watching when a child is in the water.

Barriers & Alarms

A child should never be able to access a water area unaccompanied by a responsible adult. Barriers physically block a child from the water.

Barriers include: child-proof locks on all doors, a pool fence with self-latching and self-closing gates, with door and pool alarms. A pool cover may also be used but make sure it is certified and fitted for your pool/spa. A simple canvas covering can be a drowning hazard and entrap a child.

Swim Safety

The moment a child stops breathing there is a small window of time in which resuscitation is effective, but only if someone knows what to do.

Even if you are not a parent, it's important to learn CPR. The technique is easy to learn and may make the difference between life and death. In an emergency, it is critical to have a phone nearby and immediately call 911.

Florida Requirements

The Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act (Chapter 515, Florida Statutes) requires one of the following pool safety measures for pools built after October 1, 2000:

1. A pool fence with self-closing, self-latching gate—enclosing the pool and providing no direct access to it.
2. An approved pool cover.
3. Alarms on all doors and windows leading out to the pool.
4. All doors providing direct access from the home to pool to have a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism no lower than 54 inches above the floor.

The Department of Health recommends, at a minimum, using a combination of the barriers described above to help ensure your pool is equipped with approved safety features.

Does your pool have the necessary barriers to save a child's life?



Physical Barriers

The proper physical barriers serve as a crucial layer of protection. The Department of Health recommends incorporating a number of different barriers to ensure safety. Additional recommended physical barriers can be viewed at WaterSmartFL.com.

The prices below are for estimation purposes only.

Pool Safety Fences

Fences should completely encircle the pool blocking entrance from the house or yard. The fence should be at least 4 feet high and have no holes or gaps that could allow a child to pass through.

Cost: \$1000 and up

Self-Closing & Self-Latching Gates

The gate should be self-closing, self-latching and open out from the pool. So even if the gate is not latched properly, a child leaning against it will force the gate to lock.

Cost: \$500–\$1000

Door/Window Alarms

Know the second your child goes outside. Chapter 515 states that all doors and windows providing direct access from the home to the pool must have an alarm.

Cost: \$0–\$49

Doors

Chapter 515 states that all doors providing direct access from the home to the pool should have a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism that is no lower than 54 inches above the floor.

Cost: \$50–\$250