

# The Plano Fire Department wants to share with you some tragic statistics about children and water.



To download a copy of the Plano Fire Department's Residential Pool and Spa Safety Checklist, please visit [www.planofire.org](http://www.planofire.org).

- ▀▀▀ A child can drown in as little as two inches of water.
- ▀▀▀ Each year, approximately 1,150 children ages 14 and under drown; more than half are preschoolers ages 0 to 4 years.
- ▀▀▀ More than 85 percent of drownings among children ages 1 to 4 years are pool related.
- ▀▀▀ Two-thirds of all drownings happen between May and August.



- ▀▀▀ Of all preschoolers who drown, 70 percent are in the care of one or both parents at the time of the drowning and have been missing from sight for five minutes or less.
- ▀▀▀ Of all drownings and near drownings, 40 percent occur on Saturdays and Sundays.



## What you can do to prevent becoming one of these tragic statistics.

- ▀▀▀ Watch your children in and around water. Assign a "Water Watcher," an adult who knows how to swim, to watch over children in the pool during parties or gatherings. Instruct babysitters about potential pool hazards and emphasize the need for constant supervision. Make sure this person takes this responsibility seriously and does not leave his or her duty.
- ▀▀▀ Place a phone, a lifesaving ring and a shepherd's hook at pool side. It is important to post the address of the home near the pool as well in case a guest is responsible for calling 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- ▀▀▀ All family members 13 years and older should learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).
- ▀▀▀ Remember that no one is drown proof! Do not assume that your child is safe just because he or she has taken swimming lessons.
- ▀▀▀ Do not use floatation devices as a substitute for supervision.



- ▀▀▀ The home should be isolated from the pool with a fence at least 60" tall, with a self-closing, self-latching gate. The gate should open away from the pool and should never be propped open.
- ▀▀▀ Doors and windows should be alarmed to alert adults when opened. Doors should be self-closing and self-latching as well.
- ▀▀▀ Remove toys from in and around the pool when not in use.
- ▀▀▀ If a child is missing, check the pool first. Seconds count!



PLANO FIRE DEPARTMENT  
1901 Avenue K  
P.O. Box 860358  
Plano Texas 75086-0358  
972-941-7421





# Residential Pool and Spa Safety Checklist

PLANO FIRE DEPARTMENT  
1901 Avenue K  
P.O. Box 860358  
Plano, Texas 75086-0358  
972-941-7421



## 1. Windows and Doors

- a) All windows and doors leading to the water have locks installed at least five feet above ground level.
- b) Alarms are present on all doors and windows leading to the pool or spa area. They are never disconnected.
- c) All pet doors are closed and locked.

Present	Absent	Needs Repair
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 2. Fencing

- a) There is a non-climbable fence, at least five feet high, completely surrounding the pool or spa from the residence.
- b) Vertical bars on the fence are no more than four inches apart.
- c) The fence allows for a clear view of the pool or spa.
- d) All gates leading to the pool or spa are self-closing and self-latching with latches out of reach of children (recommended 54 inches above the ground).
- e) All gates open outward, away from the pool.
- f) Chairs, tables, planters or other items potentially used for climbing are kept away from the fence.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 3. Pool and Spa Safety Covers

- a) Pool and spa safety cover can support the weight of a child.
- b) Standing water is always drained from the cover.
- c) Pool covers are removed completely when pool is in use and replaced immediately afterwards.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 4. Rescue Equipment

- a) Rescue equipment (lifesaving ring, shepherd's hook, CPR sign) is mounted near the pool or spa.
- b) There is a phone near the pool or spa. The address of the home is also listed near the phone.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 5. Supervision

- a) An adult is designated to supervise the pool or spa area when children are present. Supervision does not lapse during this time for any reason.
- b) All family members 13 years and older are certified in CPR.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 6. Pool or Spa

- a) There are ladders or built-in steps at each end of the pool or spa.
- b) The water level is always within three to four inches from the top of the pool or spa.
- c) If a diving board is present, the water is at least eight feet deep.
- d) Pool chemicals are stored in childproof containers and kept out of reach of children.
- e) Toys and other play equipment are not left near or floating in the pool or spa.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**All items checked ABSENT or NEEDS REPAIR are ways in which you can increase your level of protection against childhood drownings.**

