



September 2021

Keep Friends, Family Safe During Backyard Activities

As we continue to enjoy these last weeks of summer and our backyard barbecues, here are a few safety tips:

Grill Safety

1. Place the grill away from the siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. It is also unsafe to use grills in a garage, porch or enclosed area that could trap carbon monoxide. Never grill on top or under anything that can catch on fire.
2. When grilling, have a fire extinguisher, a garden hose or at least four (4) gallons of water close by in case of a fire.
3. Keep children away from fires and grills. Establish a safety zone around the grill and instruct the children to remain outside of the zone. A chalk line works great for this purpose. Never leave the grill unattended.
4. Did I say never leave the grill unattended? NEVER LEAVE THE GRILL UNATTENDED!

A few things you will want to check for pool and deck safety

1. Make sure all pedestrian gates in the barrier fence for your pool are self-closing and self-latching.
2. Remove all chairs, tables, large toys or other objects that would allow a child to climb up to reach the gate latch or enable the child to climb over the pool fence.
3. Reaching and throwing aids like poles and floating devices should be kept near the pool and should remain stationary and not be misplaced through play activities.
4. All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or grate that meets industry standards for suction fittings. Check to see that these covers are not broken or in disrepair, and that they are anchored firmly over the drain openings.

5. Install a pool alarm to detect accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. While the alarm provides an immediate warning, it does not substitute for the barrier fences, door alarms and safety covers required by code.

6. If anyone sustains an electrical shock no matter how minor, keep away from the area until you can have a licensed electrician find the problem.

7. Install either an automatic or manually operated, approved safety cover to completely block access to water in the pool, spa or hot tub when not in use. Never allow anyone to stand or play on a pool cover.

8. Check for warning signs of an unsafe deck, including loose or wobbly railings or support beams, missing or loose screws that connect a deck to the house, corrosion, rot and cracks.

9. Never put your body weight against the guardrails on your deck, there could be a weak or lost attachment.

10. Make sure the guard pickets are less than 4" between each picket.

11. Have a graspable handrail on stairs not a 2x4 board.

These are a few safety tips for backyard activities with friends and family.

Have fun and be safe!

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