

# 10 IMPORTANT TIPS to remember for backyard safety



## Pool & Deck Safety

- 1 Make sure all gates in the isolation 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 isolation fence.
- 3 Reaching and throwing aids like poles should be kept on both sides of the pool. These items should remain stationary and not be misplaced through play activities.
- 4 All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or gate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked with "VGB2008" indicating compliance with the latest codes.
- 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 fences, door alarms and safety covers required by the code.
- 6 Install either an automatic or manually operated, approved safety cover to completely block access to water in the pool, spa or hot tub. Never allow anyone to stand or play on a pool cover.
- 7 Check for warning signs for 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.

## Grill Safety

- 8 Place the barbeque grill away from 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 of anything that can catch on fire.
- 9 When grilling, have a fire extinguisher, a garden hose or at least 4 gallons of water close by in case of a fire.
- 10 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.

**Source:** ICC <http://www.iccsafe.org/safety/Pages/Backyard.aspx> , ABC Pool Safety ([www.abcpoolsafety.org/](http://www.abcpoolsafety.org/)), NYC Fire Dept. ([www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/safety/barbeque.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/safety/barbeque.shtml)), NFPA [www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/docs/SB-FirePreventionProgramSummerGrillArt.pdf](http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/docs/SB-FirePreventionProgramSummerGrillArt.pdf)