

# Backyard Safety

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The Home Safety Council and the Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department recommends keeping these safety hints in mind when spending time outside this summer.

## Prevent Drowning

- A swimming pool should have a fence that goes all the way around it with a self closing gate.
- When children are in the water, stay close enough to touch them.
- Adults should keep their eyes on children every second they are near water.
- Stay awake and sober when watching children in or near water.
- Only adults can safely take care of children in or near water.
- Don't ask children to baby-sit younger children around water.
- Store large buckets upside down, so water cannot fill them up.

## Prevent Falls

- Put bright lights over all porches and walkways.
- Have handrails on both sides of the stairs.
- Put ladders away after using them. Store ladders on their sides; in a shed or garage so children cannot climb on them.
- Keep stairs clear.
- Fix broken or chipped steps and walkways as soon as possible.
- If you have young children, use a safety gate to prevent falls from porches or decks.
- Cover the ground under playground equipment with a thick layer (9-12 inches) of mulch, wood chips or other safety material.

## Prevent Poisoning

- Chemicals, fuels (such as gasoline), car fluids (such as anti-freeze), pesticides (such as bug killers), and lawn and garden products (such as fertilizer) are poisons.
- Store chemicals in a safe place with a lock where children cannot see or touch them.
- Close the lid on all dangerous products and put them away after using them.
- Know to call 1-800-222-1222 if someone takes poison.
- Keep the number by every phone.

## Prevent Burn Injuries

- Use gasoline only as a fuel for motors.
- Store gasoline in a container designed just for gasoline in a shed or garage with a lock.
- Use gasoline only outside. The vapors (fumes) are very dangerous if you bring gasoline inside a building.
- Fill gas tanks away from smokers.
- Fill mowers and gasoline-powered tools outside, before starting the job.
- Re-fuel only after the tool has completely cooled down.

## Keep Children Safe

- Keep children indoors while mowing or using other dangerous outdoor tools.
- Keep children far away from barbecue grills when cooking.

- All garden equipment and tools should be kept where children cannot reach them. Store all sharp tools pointing downward.