

Pool Safety Information

Master-Halco, the world's leading provider of fence systems, has created a special pool safety section on its website www.FenceOnline.com/poolsafety.html. This special section provides pool safety tips and information to focus on reducing the incidence of accidental child-drowning. On the website, parents can use specially designed software to plan and price pool safety barriers and find helpful information regarding national guidelines and specifications for pool fencing.

The site includes many helpful links, articles written by experts in the field of pool safety, and lifesaving information about the proper design and installation of pool fencing. Additional tools are also available to assist consumers in making informed choices when selecting pool and other types of fencing.



Master-Halco is one of the largest distributors and manufacturers of fencing materials in the world. Dedicated solely to the fence industry for over 40 years, we offer a complete line of chain-link, ornamental iron, vinyl, and wood fence systems, as well as fence accessories. With our total commitment to the fence industry and local representation, your professional fence contractor has the necessary support to assure your complete satisfaction.



Additional Resources:

For a copy of Safety Barrier Guidelines for Home Pools, write to:
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Pool Barriers-Publication No. 362
Office of Information & Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20207

Additional Information:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov
Drowning Prevention
www.childrensafetyzone.com
Injury Free Coalition For Kids
www.injuryfree.org
Safety Campaign "Look before you Leap."
www.greenweb.com.au/lookleap



Effective Barriers Against Drowning

Startling Statistics

75% of All Child Drownings Happen in the Family Swimming Pool

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), 85% of the children who drown each year do so in their own or a friend's pool. The largest share of these drownings (75%) can be attributed to momentary lapses in parental supervision combined with the lack of proper pool safety barriers.

Pool submersions involving children happen quickly. A child can drown in the time it takes to answer a phone call. According to the same CPSC study, 77% of the victims had been missing for five minutes or less when they were found in the pool drowned or submerged.

Of course, supervision is always your primary layer of protection, but fencing is one of the several layers of protection that can provide effective prevention of child drownings. For this reason, Master-Halco, the world's leading provider of fencing systems, in cooperation with your local fence contractor, has produced this brochure. Our goal is to provide important safety information and to help consumers understand how important it is that pool fencing meets or exceeds local building codes and that it is installed properly.

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children under the age of five.

- Most children who drown were last seen in the home and had been out of sight for less than 5 minutes.
- Children can drown in the time it takes to cross the room for a towel (10 seconds) or answer the phone (20-30 seconds).
- 65% of victims are between 1 - 3 years old.
- Toddlers, in particular, often do something unexpected as their capabilities change daily.

Fences & Gates

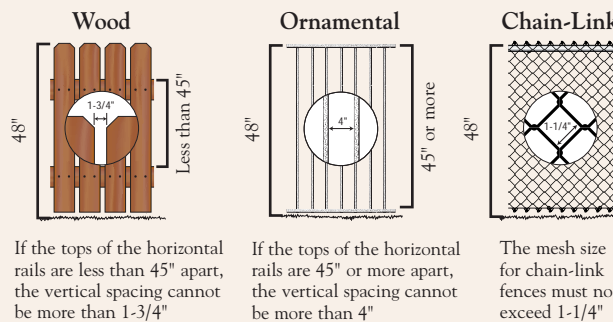
Consumer Product Safety Commission Suggests Installing Fences & Gates

One of the most effective, proven strategies that can reduce the risk of drowning is to isolate the pool from the rest of the backyard by using fencing (isolation fence).

The CPSC suggests installing a fence or other barrier completely around the pool. If the house is part of the barrier, the doors leading from the house to the pool should be protected with an alarm or the pool should have a power safety cover.

The fence or other barrier should be at least 4' high, with no foot or handholds that could help a young child to climb it.

- Vertical fence slats should be less than 4" apart to prevent a child from squeezing through.
- For any pool barrier, the maximum clearance at the bottom of the barrier should not exceed 4" above the grade or 2" above non-solid surfaces such as dirt and grass.
- Gates should open out from the pool and should be self-closing and self-latching. Traditional mechanical hinges and latches for gates often fail to close the gate properly. The new generation of hardware, latches that are magnetically triggered and tension adjustable hinges, provide a reliable, self-closing gate. These innovative products have now become the standard in pool gate hardware.
- If the fence is chain-link, the maximum mesh size should not exceed 1-1/4". A larger mesh can be used if slats are inserted as long as it reduces the opening on either side of the slat to no more than 1-3/4".



Fencing Codes

How to Find Pool Fencing Codes for Your Area

Pool barrier laws vary greatly across the nation. Contact your city or county governments to learn what the pool safety code is in your area.

Regardless of what the code is for your area, be sure to install a safe pool barrier. It is a good idea to review examples of pool safety codes. Here are a few examples:

- Consumer Product Safety Commission www.cpsc.gov
www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/pool.pdf
www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/359.pdf
- International Code Council www.iccsafe.org



The goal, with instituted layers of protection, is to come as close to a "fail safe" system of preventing drowning incidents as possible. Meaning that if there is a momentary lapse of supervision for whatever reason, you have several backup systems in place.

