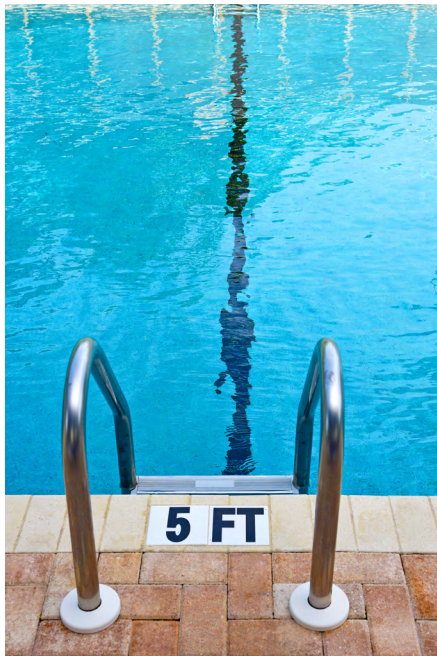


# Create a safe swimming pool environment.



Make depth markers and 'No Diving' signs highly visible on both the deck and pool sidewalls.

Swimming pools are a great way to provide entertainment, exercise and a relaxing atmosphere for the patrons of your business. However, they can present hazards that could result in serious losses. The design, condition, supervision and continual maintenance of a pool play important roles in helping to control these hazards.

## The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 10 people die from unintentional drowning every day.<sup>1</sup> One way to help prevent drownings is by complying with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act. This act mandates the type of drain covers to be used to help prevent suction entrapment and is a federal law that preempts any state or local laws. For more information about compliance with this law and access to other pool safety resources, visit [poolsafely.gov](https://poolsafely.gov).

## General safety tips.

- Comply with all federal, state and local regulations, including the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act
- Enclose outdoor pools with a fence at least 4 feet high with a self-closing, self-latching gate, and keep the perimeter free of shrubbery or objects that could provide a means to climb over the fence
- Provide controlled access, such as electronic entry, to indoor pools to help monitor use
- Post general safety rules, hours of operation and emergency contact information in a highly visible location in the pool area
- Keep proper lifesaving equipment — such as a shepherd's hook and throwing rope with ring buoy — in the pool area, along with a telephone for emergency calls
- Provide adequate staff to supervise the number of swimmers, use CPR-trained lifeguards, and post notices when no guard is on duty
- Require adult supervision of children, especially when no lifeguard is on duty
- Make depth markers and "No Diving" signs highly visible on both the deck and pool sidewalls

## Swimming Pool Safety

- Limit the use of toys or supervise play closely, and store toys when not in use so children won't be tempted to enter the pool area unsupervised
- Install sturdy guard rails around above-ground pool decks
- Design diving boards, platforms and waterslides to meet adequate depths
- Separate the shallow and deep ends with a rope extending across the pool
- Prohibit the use of glass containers and alcoholic beverages
- Restrict pool access after business hours and during inclement weather, preferably by locking the area

### Best practices for safe pool maintenance.

- Establish a formal maintenance program for staff to follow
- Check the pool area and equipment regularly to help ensure cleanliness and keep surfaces safe
- Repair sharp edges, protruding objects, non-slip materials, ladders and railings as needed
- Test and treat pool water routinely, and record results to be kept on file
- Label and secure all chemicals in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations
- Make sure the water is clear enough to see the bottom of the pool
- Keep the pool area well-lit with lighting and electrical systems installed and maintained by a qualified electrician in accordance with local codes
- Advise patrons to keep all personal electronic devices away from the water in the pool and spa areas
- Make sure all outlets are equipped with a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)
- Have the pool and spa inspected regularly to ensure that emergency shut-off devices and anti-entrapment systems are working properly
- Install a carbon monoxide detection system and check it regularly to minimize exhaust leakage from pool heaters into buildings



Test and treat pool water routinely, and record results to be kept on file.

Providing solutions to help our members manage risk.®



For your risk management and safety needs, contact Nationwide Loss Control Services: 1-866-808-2101 or [LCS@nationwide.com](mailto:LCS@nationwide.com).