10 IMPORTANT TIPS
to remember for backyard and pool safety

ICC INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL®

Pool & Deck Safety

1. Make sure all pedestrian gates in the barrier fence for your pool are self-closing and self-latching. Other gates should be padlocked.

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 grate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked to indicate compliance with ANSI/ASME A112.19.8 2007. Check to see that these covers are not broken or in disrepair, and that they are anchored firmly over the drain openings. The pool shall be closed immediately when broken, missing or noncompliant suction outlet drain covers are first noticed.

5. Install a pool alarm to detect accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. While the alarm provides an immediate warning, it is not a substitute for the barrier 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. The covers shall comply with ASTM F1345. Never allow anyone to stand or play on a pool cover.

7. 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.

Grill Safety

8. Place the barbeque grill away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Do not use grills in a garage, porch or enclosed area that could trap carbon monoxide. Never grill on top of anything that can easily burn.

9. When grilling, have a fire extinguisher, a garden hose or several 4 gallons of water close by in case of a fire.

10. Keep children away from grills when in use. 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 www.iccsafe.org/safety/Pages/Backyard.aspx , ABC Pool Safety (www.abcpoolsafety.org/)