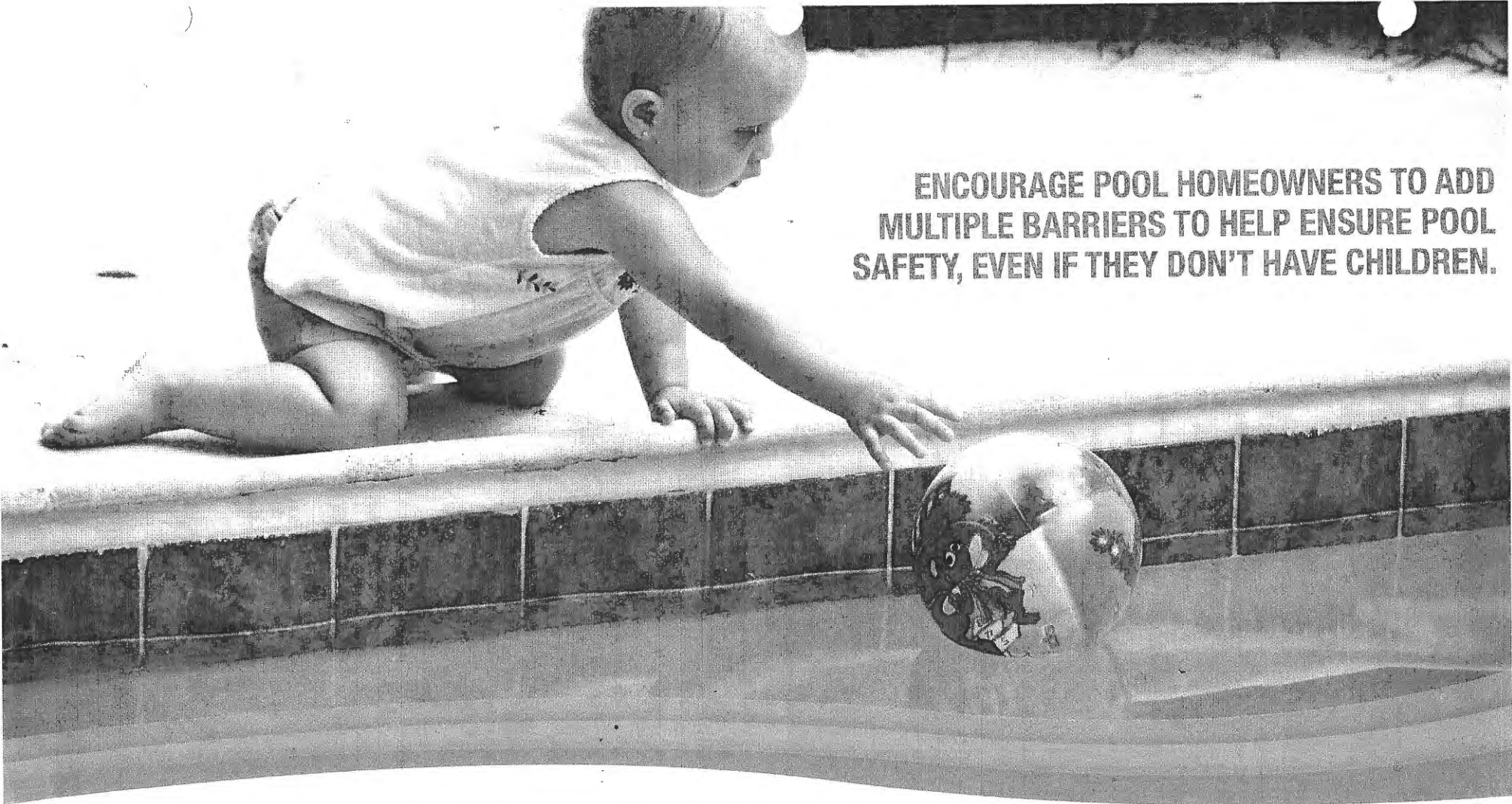




**POOL  
SAFETY  
COURSE  
BOOKLET**

*(2 Training Hours)*

**Lifetech Instructional Services  
1423 Wisconsin Ave  
Palm Harbor, Fl. 34683  
727-433-3341**



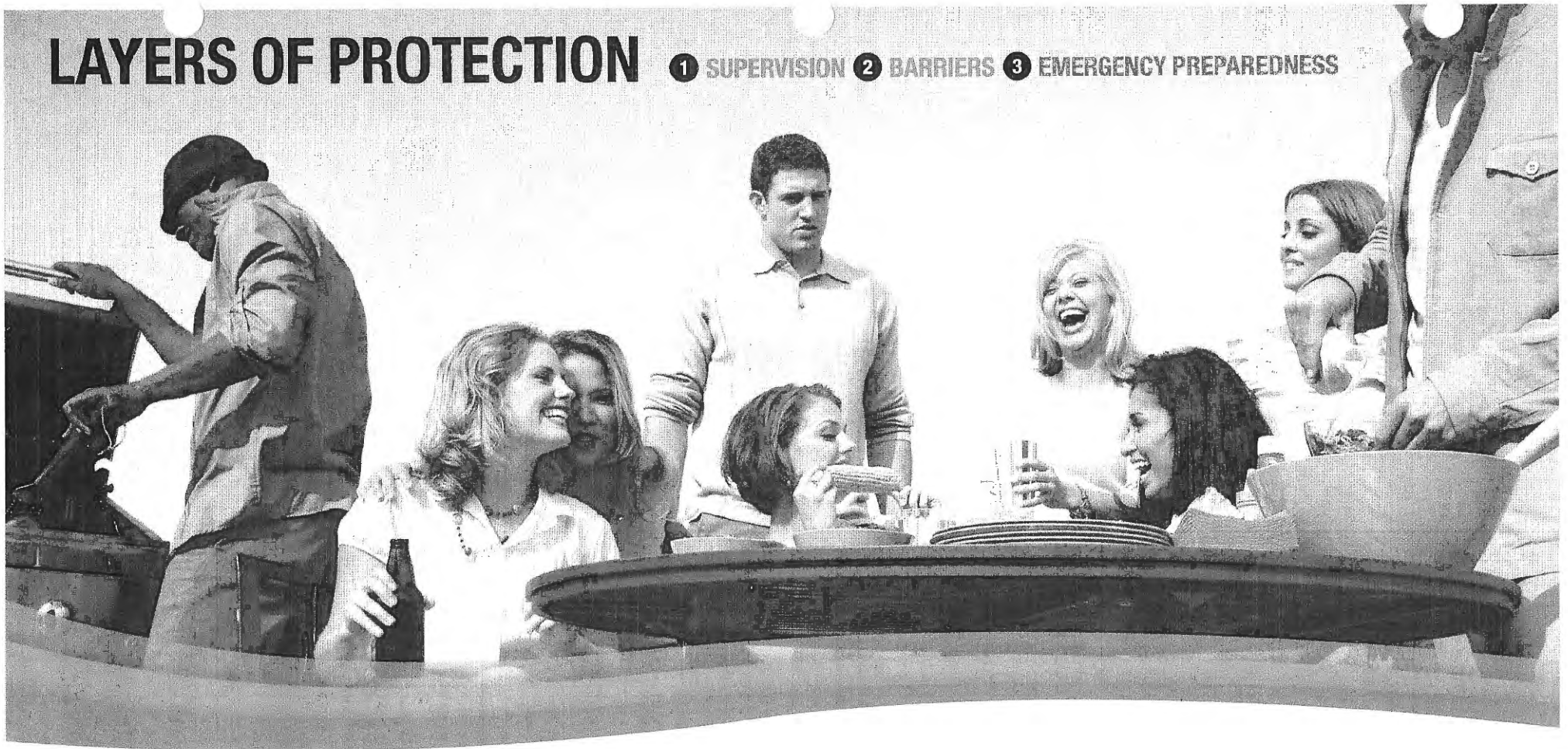
**ENCOURAGE POOL HOMEOWNERS TO ADD  
MULTIPLE BARRIERS TO HELP ENSURE POOL  
SAFETY, EVEN IF THEY DON'T HAVE CHILDREN.**

## **THE FACTS.** FLORIDA LEADS THE COUNTRY IN DROWNING DEATHS OF CHILDREN AGES 1-4.

- In Florida, drowning is the leading cause of death among children ages 1-4.
- The Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act, F.S. Chapter 515, requires only one physical barrier for pools built after 2000.
- The Florida Department of Health strongly recommends multiple barriers to help ensure safety and using "layers of protection" to help prevent drowning.
- Drowning is silent and only takes a minute.
- The average hospital stay is two days with a median admission charge of \$10,713.
- 34% of these stays are covered by Medicaid.
- The monetary cost of drowning in Florida for a year is greater than \$16 million.
- Over 90% of Florida's home swimming pools were built before the law. "Does your pool have the necessary barriers to save a child's life?"

# LAYERS OF PROTECTION

① SUPERVISION ② BARRIERS ③ EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



## ① LAYER 1: SUPERVISION

**IN 2008, 71% OF DROWNINGS OCCURRED  
IN RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOLS.**

Drowning can be a silent catastrophe, one that can happen in the few minutes you take to answer a phone call or run inside for a towel. In 2008, 71% of drownings occurred in residential swimming pools. Supervision, the first and most crucial layer of protection, means someone is always actively watching when a child is in the pool.

### THE “BACKYARD BARBECUE” SCENARIO

Imagine a barbecue with friends and neighbors gathered around the pool, eating and drinking, while the kids splash in the pool. But who’s watching the kids? Everyone, right? Or no one. In a situation like this, it’s easy to assume someone else is watching. ***DON’T ASSUME.*** At every moment, make sure someone is assigned the role of “water watcher” and does nothing else but focus on the children at all times.

### THE “IN THE HOUSE” SCENARIO

When you get home after a long day at work, there are many things that need to get done around the house: Laundry, cleaning, cooking, packing school lunches – it can be very easy for a parent to be distracted by chores. As the parents are busy around the house, they may open a backyard door and forget to close it, leaving an opportunity for a small child to wander outdoors and easily gain entry into the pool. That is why barriers are so important. Incorporating childproof locks, door alarms and a pool gate sets obstacles between a child and the pool, making it more difficult to gain access and alerting parents when a child opens a door and is outside.

## 2 LAYER 2: BARRIERS

A child should never be able to enter the pool area unaccompanied by a guardian. Barriers physically block a child from the pool. Barriers include: child-proof locks on all doors, a pool fence with self-latching and self-closing gates, as well as door and pool alarms. Pool covers may also be used but make sure it is a professional cover, fitted for your pool. A simple canvas covering can be a drowning hazard and entrap a child in the water.

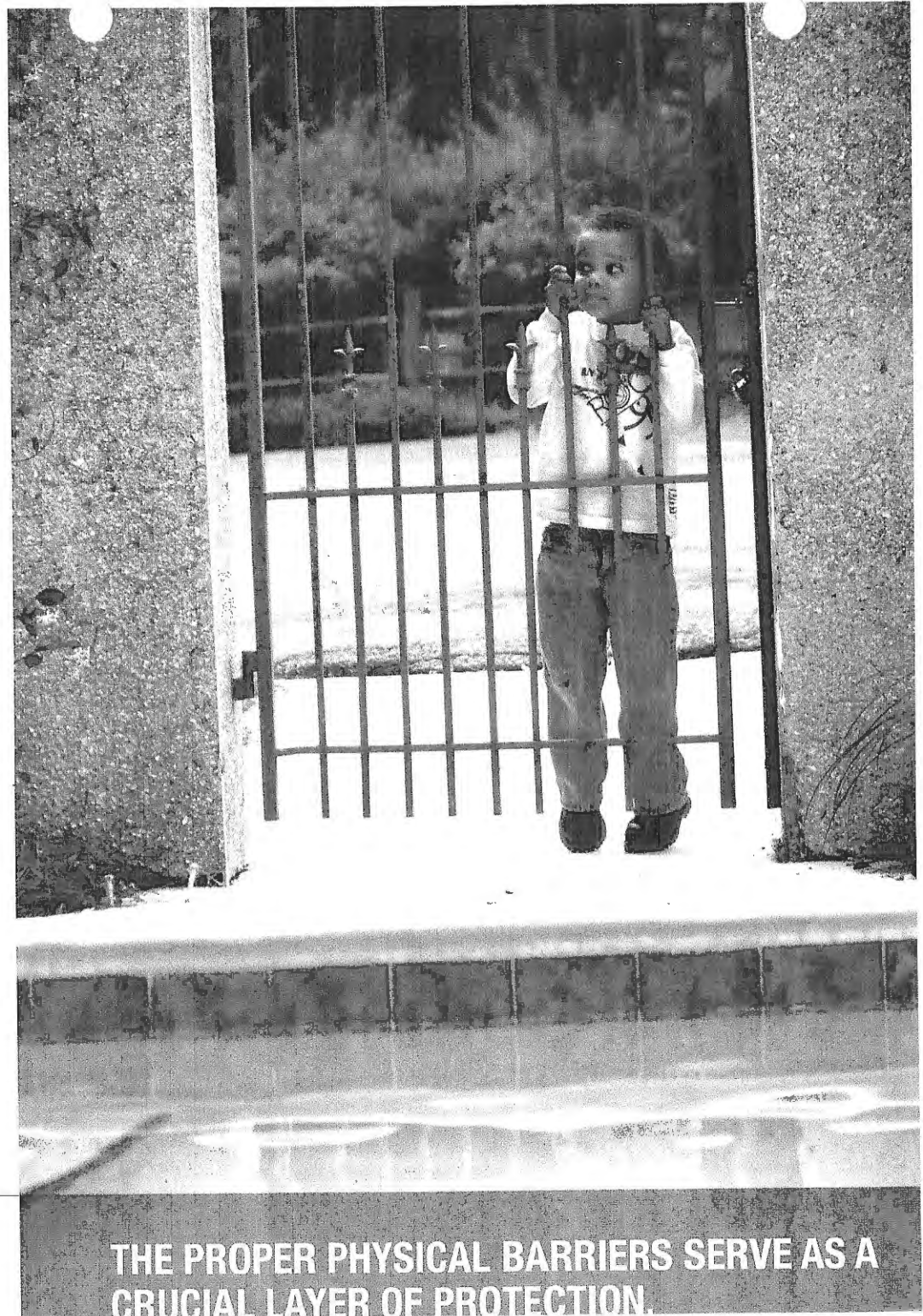
## 3 LAYER 3: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The moment a child stops breathing there is a small, precious window of time in which resuscitation may occur. But only if someone knows what to do. Even if you're not a parent, it's important to learn CPR. The techniques are easy to learn and can mean the difference between life and death. In an emergency, it is critical to have a phone nearby and immediately call 911.

The Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act (Chapter 515, Florida Statutes) requires one of the following pool safety measures for pools built after October 1, 2000:

1. A pool fence with self-closing, self-latching gate – enclosing the pool and providing no direct access to it.
2. An approved pool cover.
3. Alarms on all doors and windows leading out to the pool.
4. All doors providing direct access from the home to pool to have a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism no lower than 54 inches above the floor.

***The Department of Health recommends, at a minimum, using a combination of the barriers described above to help ensure your pool is equipped with approved safety features. For more information about the 515.29 Residential swimming pool barrier requirements, visit [WaterproofFL.com/requirements](http://WaterproofFL.com/requirements).***



# THE PHYSICAL BARRIERS.

The proper physical barriers serve as a crucial layer of protection. When used correctly, each of these barriers can make your home a little safer. The Department of Health recommends incorporating a number of different barriers to ensure safety. Many pool contractors can provide these barriers at the time of pool installation or can recommend an appropriate vendor or contractor. *\*The prices below are for estimation purposes only.*

**COST LEGEND: \$: 0 - \$49    \$\$: \$50 - \$250    \$\$\$: \$251 - \$500    \$\$\$\$: \$501 - \$1000    \$\$\$\$: \$1001+**

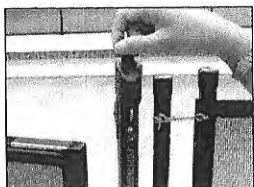


## POOL SAFETY FENCES

(Fiberglass Post Fencing or Aluminum Post Fencing with textile mesh or interlocking mesh)

Should completely encircle the pool blocking entrance from the house or yard. The fence should be at least 4 feet high and have no holes or gaps that could allow a child to pass through.

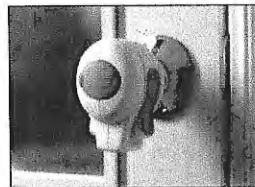
**COST: \$\$\$**



## SELF-CLOSING & SELF-LATCHING GATES

The gate should be self-closing, self-latching and open out from the pool. So even if the gate is not latched properly, a child leaning against it will force the gate to lock.

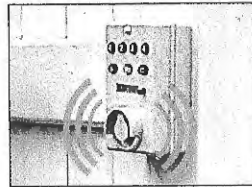
**COST: \$\$\$**



## CHILDPROOF LOCKS

An inexpensive way to keep your child in the house. Makes the doorknob difficult for a child to turn.

**COST: \$**



## DOOR/WINDOW ALARMS

Know the second your child goes outside. Chapter 515 states that all doors and windows providing direct access from the home to the pool must have an alarm. Be sure to test and install battery operated alarms or plug-in alarms with battery backup according to manufacturer's instructions.

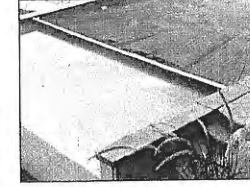
**COST: \$**



## DOORS

Chapter 515 states that all doors providing direct access from the home to the pool should have a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism no lower than 54 inches above the floor.

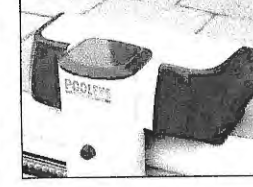
**COST: \$\$**



## SAFETY COVER

A sturdy barrier between the water and children. Make sure the cover was designed for safety, not to keep the leaves out. The safety cover should be custom built and fitted for your pool.

**COST: \$\$\$**



## POOL ALARMS

Senses movement in the pool, alerting you if your child falls in.

**COST: \$**

Over 90% of Florida's home swimming pools were built before the law (F.S. Chapter 515). "Does your swimming pool have the necessary barriers to save a child's life?"

Learn the steps you can take to protect Florida's children. Pool safety is everyone's responsibility. 1.877.362.5033 | WaterproofFL.com

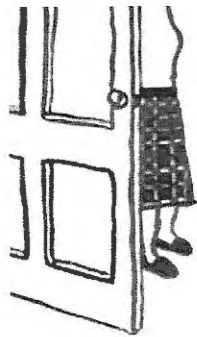
**waterproofFL**  
FLORIDA'S SAFETY EXPERTS

# The FIVE Layers of Pool Safety

Use this simple checklist and find out if your pool area is secured by the proper "layers of protection":

## The first layer begins with YOU!

Pool safety starts with the caregiver. Persistent supervision will keep your little ones from accessing the pool area. Also, limit distractions that may interfere with supervision.



## Second layer: inside the home

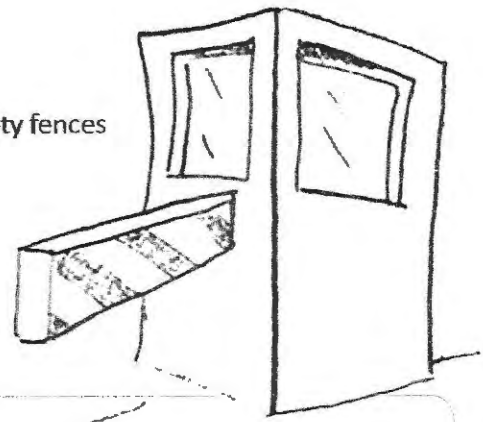
Have a clear view of the pool from within the house. Access to exterior doors should be limited to adults - use childproof door locks and door alarms on all doors leading to the pool area.

## Third layer: outside the home

The backyard should be secured, as well as the pool area with safety fences and self-closing, self-latching gates. Use an alarm for the gate.

Keep furniture away from the safety fence - kids love to climb!

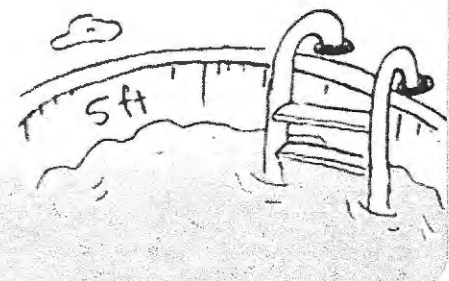
Hot tubs should have a locking cover.



## Fourth layer: the pool area

Keep toys and floating objects out of the pool, and remove trip hazards from the pool's edge.

Maintain water levels three to four inches from the top. Wave alarms can be placed in the pool. Pool covers can be used when the pool is not in use.



## Fifth layer: swimming lessons

Enroll in swim lessons and make sure that family members can swim too. Always swim with a buddy and make sure children are never left unattended. Use life jackets for swimmers still learning, but do not rely on these alone. Establish rules for play areas, ensuring drains and suction fittings are off-limits.

Teach children to always ask permission to swim!

**POOL SAFETY EXAM:**

( 1 training hour )

**Instructions:** Read each of the following questions carefully and Circle or Write your best answer.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Which Department strongly recommends multiple barriers to ensure safety?**

- A. Dept. of Water
- B. Dept. of Commerce
- C. Dept. of Health
- D. Dept. of Interior

**2. Drowning is silent and only takes 2 minutes for someone to drown?**

**True or False**

**3. List the 3 Layers of Protection?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Which is the most crucial layer of protection?**

- A. Barriers
- B. Supervision
- C. Emergency Preparedness
- D. Pool monitoring

**5. In 2008, what percentage of drowning occurred in residential pools:**

- A. 71 percent
- B. 75 percent
- C. 73 percent
- D. 70 percent

**6. What physically blocks a child from the pool?**

- A. Emergency Preparedness
- B. Supervision
- C. Barriers
- D. Pool Monitoring

**7. It is NOT important to learn CPR if you have a pool**

**True or False**

**8. Which Act requires one of the following pool safety measures for pools built after October 1, 2000?**

- A. Commercial Swimming Pool Safety Act
- B. Drowning in Pool Safety Act
- C. Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act
- D. Residential Water Safety Act

**9. List 3 types of barriers that can help protect your child?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**10. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone that does nothing else but focuses on the children at all times?**

- A. Pool Technician
- B. Water Watcher
- C. Pool Guard
- D. Water Boy

**11. List the 5 layers of pool safety?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_

---

**FILL OUT YOUR INFORMATION BELOW AND SEND YOUR COMPLETED ANSWER SHEET TO THE ADDRESS BELOW.**

**INCLUDE YOUR CHECK or MONEY ORDER for \$ 5.00 ( PER TEST )**

**Once test is received, you will get a certificate of completion.**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PRESCHOOL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:**

**Lifetech Instructional Services  
1423 Wisconsin Avenue  
Palm Harbor, Fl. 34683**