

# HOME WATER SAFETY

EVERYONE CAN BE A LIFESAVER



**Royal Life Saving**

ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY - AUSTRALIA



## Q. What areas around the home can present a drowning risk?

A. Backyard pools, spas, buckets and other items that can contain water. Parents/carers must remember to always empty the bathtub, close the bathroom door, empty eskies and buckets and keep such items out of reach of children.

## Q. Where have drowning deaths around the home occurred in the past?

- |                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| • Buckets             | • Inflatable pools           |
| • Eskies              | • Water tanks                |
| • Irrigation channels | • Swimming pools             |
| • Dams / Rivers       | • Bathtubs                   |
| • Drains              | • Pet bowls                  |
| • Spas                | • Creeks/Streams             |
| • Fish Ponds          | • Water features / fountains |

## Q. When do drowning deaths around the home occur?

A. Most happen when the adult's attention may be divided such as the arrival home of a family member or the preparation of evening meals. Be aware of additional distractions and do not let them get in the way of constant visual supervision of your child when in, on, or around water.

## Q. How can I supervise children at social settings?

A. Often at events and gatherings people can assume that someone else is watching the child/children. In fact, it is possible that no one is supervising. Select an adult responsible for their care. If this person needs to leave for any reason, ensure a new supervisor is chosen. If alcohol is being consumed, the adult who is supervising should not drink.

## Q. Can I get my older children to look after the younger ones?

A. Never leave young children in the care of older children (under 16).

## Home Water Safety Checklist:

- Keep an eye out for water dangers around the house, remove the danger or prevent access.
- Set of rules established for your children around water
- Buckets and other items containing water emptied and put away out of child's reach
- Empty inflatable/blow up pools and make sure they are kept out of child's reach

**DROWNING HAPPENS QUICKLY AND SILENTLY!**

**ALWAYS KEEP WATCH OVER YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME.**

## Real Life Story - Esky Drowning Death

A family learned first hand of the dangers household objects can present to children when their 2 year old drowned in an esky at a family celebration. The ice in the esky had melted and after dropping a toy into the esky, the 2 year old tried to retrieve it, but fell in and was unable to get out. As a result the little girl was trapped in the esky and drowned in just a small amount of water.

This tragedy is a warning to all parents to take care to remove or secure all drowning hazards in and around their homes.

## KEEP WATCH, PROTECT YOUR MOB

Contact Royal Life Saving NSW on: **02 9634 3700** or download from **[www.royallifesaving.com.au](http://www.royallifesaving.com.au)**

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