

# Pool Safety

By: Michael Rowan



# POOLS SAFETY

Pool safety starts with making sure your pool is actually ready for summer!



AmeriPro Inspection Corporation  
7700-2 Square Lake Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32256  
1 800 991 0142  
[www.chooseameripro.com](http://www.chooseameripro.com)



## 2017 POOL SAFETY ALERT

- ◆ Electrical Safety
- ◆ Drain Cover Entrapment
- ◆ Barriers and Fences
- ◆ DeckTrip Hazards
- ◆ Exit AlarmsDoors
- ◆ Window Locks
- ◆ Pool Toys
- ◆ Broken Glass
- ◆ Water Quality
- ◆ Pool Lights
- ◆ Pool Rules



## Pool Safety

Summer is almost here and school is coming to a close. With rising temperatures, we all know those kiddos are going to be in and out of the pool at every chance they get. Let's make sure we keep our kids safe, healthy and entertained this season. Here is a quick pool safety guide to get you ready.

### Pool safety starts with making sure your pool is actually Ready for summer!

#### Electrical Safety:

Sometimes safety components may have failed during the off season and are creating a hidden danger for you and your guests. GFCI protection, pool lights, electrical bonding, to mention a few, should all be checked and operable. On some older homes, particularly those built between the late 70's and 80's, the presence of hazardous electrical panels may be an issue. For example, Federal Pacific, Challenger or Zinsco panels are know problem panels that may fail in an emergency because of potential issues with non-tripping of circuit breakers. Consult with your pool contractor or electrician to make sure your pool is mechanically safe and ready for the upcoming season.

#### Drain Cover - Entrapment:

Make sure all entrapment hazards present are mitigated. Pool drains should be updated with the most up to date pool drainage system, which incorporates a dome cover and safety vacuum release. Suction pressures from pools have caused many Unfortunatly, suction pressures from pools have caused many injuries and fatalities. Make sure all your friends and family know to never sit on drains, suction pipes etc., and the procedures necessary should an incident occur.

#### Barriers and Fences:

It is our experience that barriers designed for pools are always better than fences, as they completely surround the pool and are only accessible through a child-proof gate which should be self-closing and locking. Fences on the other hand surround the yard and while they have self-closing devices on the entrance gates, children entering the rear yard from inside, still have open access to the pool and associated equipment.

Whether a barrier or a fence, make sure the right systems and training is in place for you, your family and friends. Check for any damage or tears in the fence mesh, broken sections, locks, and that the fence is at least 48" high. Regularly check safety components also.

#### Deck - Trip Hazards:

Remove trip hazards, and repair cracked decks. If you have pressure treated woods, making sure the treatment and stain finish is functional and not causing undue risk of personal injury from splinters or falls.

#### Exit Alarms – Doors:

Make sure all exit doors to the pool area are facilitated with working exit alarms and locks designated for pool use. These must be high enough to be out of kids reach and functional. All exit doors should be self-closing and latching. If you have no younger kids and are accustomed to keeping the door wedged open, make sure these customs are changed when visitors are present with younger children.





## Rules of Your Pool

Here are some examples of rules and safety precautions:

- ◆ Never leave children unattended around a swimming pool.
- ◆ Never leave doors, windows or barriers open to pool access.  
Pool access is via adult permission only and younger children should know that the pool area is strictly off limits.
- ◆ Adult supervision is required at all times.
- ◆ No swimming alone at any time.
- ◆ Everyone entering your pool must be able to swim or else wear a life safety device.
- ◆ Diving, running or pushing strictly prohibited.
- ◆ Limit Pool Toys / Inflatables: Too many or any can create a hazard for most small children and with older children if not monitored, can lead to more boisterous activity.
- ◆ Always have a phone, first aid supplies and life safety equipment visible and accessible and make sure everyone knows where they are and how to use them.

Everyone in your home must know and respect the pool rules you set. Everyone should know the basic emergency procedures in relation to pool accidents, and if children go missing, your pool is the first place everyone should look.

Swimming pools are a great source of entertainment for everyone. Everyone should and will respect your rules. Have fun and stay safe

## Window Locks:

Make sure all window locks are functional, and any openings entering the pool area are equipped with audible alarms. Regularly checking and making sure locks are operational is essential for the safety of you and your visitors.

## Pool Toys:

Toys are an immediate attraction for younger children. When the pool is not in use or supervised, make sure all of these temptations are removed from the pool and stored in a safe place. There are also self-worn toys for younger kids such as mermaid fins, which are very concerning if used without upper floatation devices and strict supervision while in the pool. Toys are always fun, but can create undue risk for all concerned if not monitored.

## Broken Glass:

Broken glass in a pool is extremely dangerous, and most do not know until it is too late. Broken glass in a pool is an expensive proposition to correct properly and one that cannot be ignored. The most appropriate solution to remove broken glass, is to drain the pool, sweep it clean and refill completely! Yes this is correct. While removing the large parts and then relying on the vacuum can have some success, it can never be guaranteed to remove all of the glass splinters. It is our recommendation to have policies in place with regard to the use of glass around pools. Simply put, have your stack of plastic cups ready when entering the pool area!

## Water Quality:

This is an everyday job particularly in the height of the summer season. Maintaining the water quality will prevent undue illness to your kids and damage to the marcite surface of your pool. This applies to both salt and chlorine pools.

## Pool Lights:

Always make sure your pool light is on during night time use. Regularly check GFCI protection if any equipment is connected to the same plug.

## Pool Rules and Safety Precautions:

Every homeowner needs to set strict rules for pool use, and enforce them at all times. Being proactive with your children as far as defensive swim lessons, irrespective of age, is crucial for anyone owning a home with a swimming pool. An example of pool rules every homeowner should consider are outlined adjacent.

**For more information on maintaining your swimming pool or for help on selecting a swimming pool contractor to install or maintain a pool, please email [info@inspectiondepot.com](mailto:info@inspectiondepot.com).**



# Author:

Michael Rowan



Michael Rowan began his career in the building inspection industry UK, where he earned the designation of Chartered Building Surveyor, with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors in 1993. Upon immigrating to the United States in 1994, Mr. Rowan secured his General Contractors License and started his home inspection business. Mr. Rowan has completed over 10,000 building inspections of both residential and commercial structures during his career and has worked on everything from 600 square foot homes to \$300,000,000 resorts.

Mr. Rowan has developed and authored many training programs for the inspection industry, many of which are approved for continuing education, pre-licensing certification, and career development. Mr. Rowan has also authored the "Home Guide" home owner's manual, used by many inspectors today across the country to better serve their clients.

Mr. Rowan has achieved many licenses and qualifications over the years including but not Limited to the following;

- ◆ State Certified General Contractor - #CGC058730
- ◆ State Certified Home Inspector - #HI265
- ◆ State Certified Mold Assessor - #MRSA978
- ◆ Florida Licensed Adjuster 520 - #W066255
- ◆ Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, London, UK – Member #88531 (Retired)
- ◆ Class II Existing Residential Energy Rater
- ◆ Class III New Residential Energy Rater
- ◆ Completed Class I Energy Rating Training Course
- ◆ LEED for Homes Certification
- ◆ Florida Green Building Coalition
- ◆ My Safe Florida Wind Certification Entity
- ◆ Contractors Blue Print for Safety
- ◆ BPI Energy Certification

**Not all roofers are the same. Not all contractors are the same.**

**And certainly not all licensed inspectors are the same.**

**When selecting your home inspection consultant, never select on price! You are paying for their knowledge and experience and this greatly differs from one inspector to another.**

## AmeriPro Inspection Corporation

7700-2 Square Lake Blvd.

Jacksonville, FL 32256

1 800 991 0142

[www.chooseameripro.com](http://www.chooseameripro.com)

Like us on Facebook  
[Facebook.com/chooseameripro](https://www.facebook.com/chooseameripro)

