

Drowning

February 2017

Young children love the water. They have no understanding of danger or drowning. They can drown very quickly and silently.

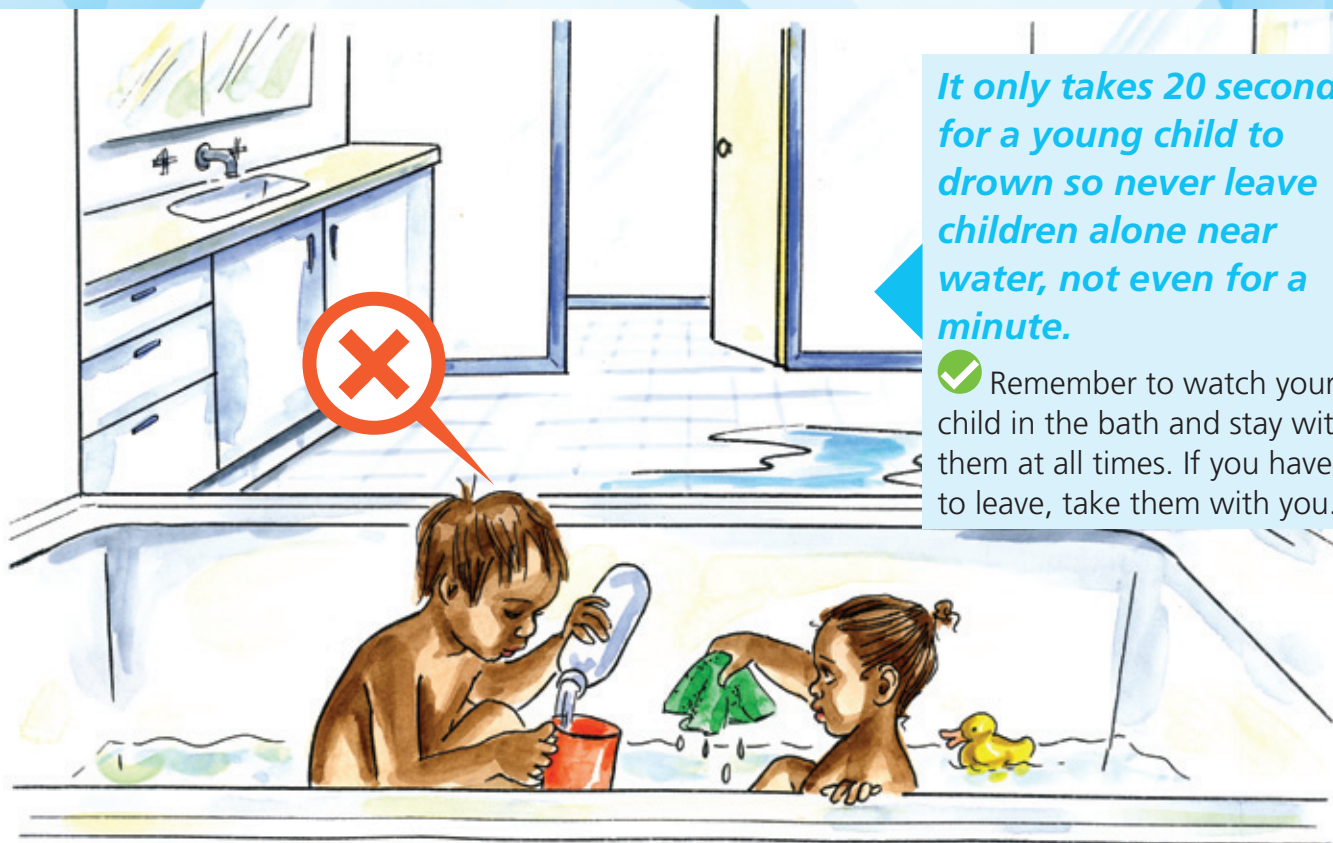
✓ Closely watch children around the water at all times. Young children should always be within arm's length of an adult around water and never left in the care of older children.

It can be too difficult for older children to watch and provide help.



It only takes 20 seconds for a young child to drown so never leave children alone near water, not even for a minute.

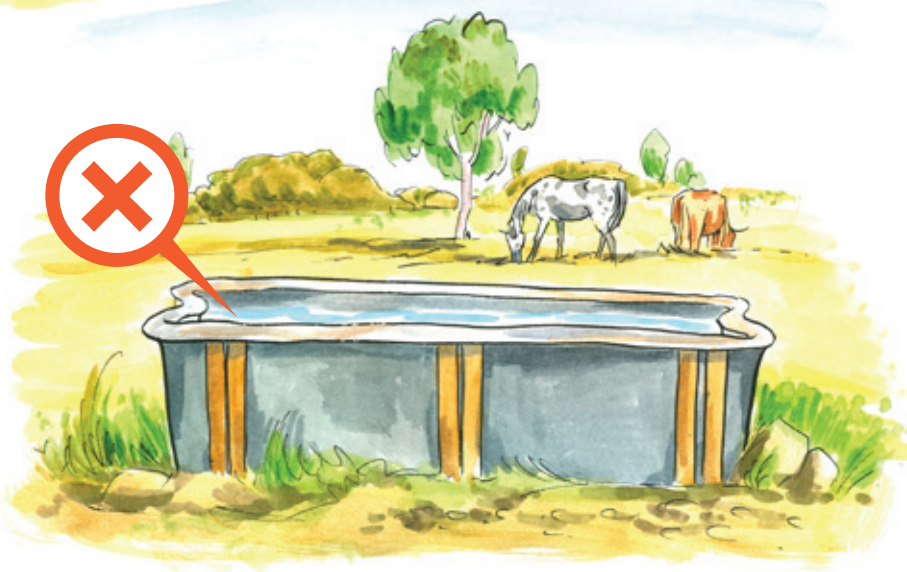
✓ Remember to watch your child in the bath and stay with them at all times. If you have to leave, take them with you.



Children can drown in as little as 5cm of water.

Any buckets, inflatable pools, baths, water tanks, fish ponds, water features, pet drinking bowls, wheelie bins and dams should all be emptied or be away from where your child plays.

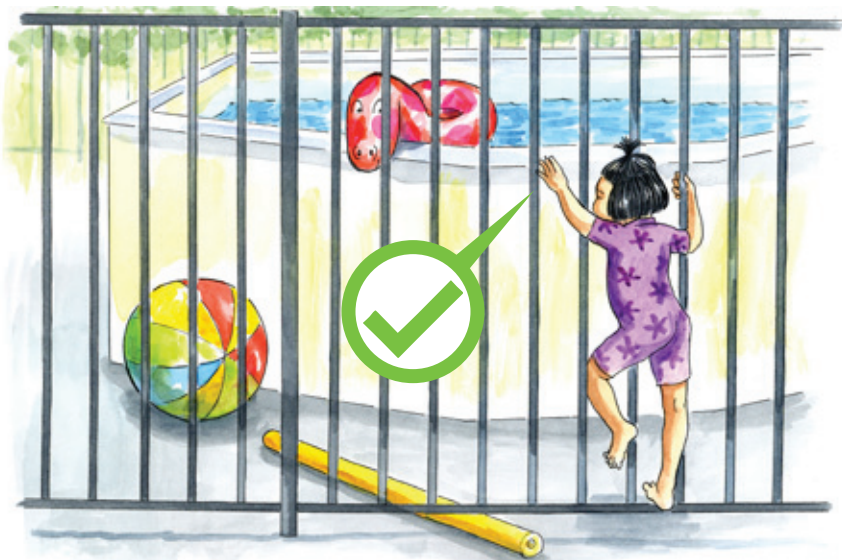
Children can fall head first into water hazards like buckets and fish ponds and it can be hard for them to get out.




Install fencing around all in-ground and above ground pools and spas.

This includes all portable or above ground that have a filtration system.

If your pool has a filtration system, you will need to contact your local council for approval.



Never prop the pool gate open.

 Check the pool fence regularly and fix it straight away if it is broken.

Make sure there is nothing around the fence that children can climb to get to the pool.

Safety checklist to prevent drowning

- ☐ Do you always actively supervise children around water?
- ☐ Is your swimming pool or portable pool fenced?
- ☐ Have you checked your pool fence is in good condition and working like it should?
- ☐ Is your pool gate always kept shut and never propped open?
- ☐ Do you always empty wading pools, eskies and buckets after each use?
- ☐ Do you have a grate or restricted access to ponds and water features?
- ☐ Do you and your children always wear life jackets at the river and in a boat?
- ☐ Have you learnt CPR and do you know what to do in an emergency?
- ☐ Has your child been to swimming lessons?

For more information, contact:

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