

A message from BORA's
CHIEF STRUCTURAL CODE COMPLIANCE Officer

Is your pool as safe as it could be?

Did you know that drowning is the leading cause of death among Florida children age 1-4?

Did you know that approximately 66% of all drownings occur in residential pools?

Did you know that, by State Law and the Florida Building Code, all new residential pools built after October 1, 2000, require safety barriers?

Barriers are intended to prevent a young child from crawling under, squeezing through, or climbing over such to gain access to the pool.

More areas that deserve attention:

- For all pool ladders, make sure bottom of ladder remains tight to the wall
- Install alarms that meet Statute and Code requirements on all windows and doors that lead into the pool area
- Make sure all doors leading directly to the pool area are also self-closing and self-latching

In addition to these measures, pool safety experts remind us that **supervision of children** and **emergency preparedness** are also essential to pool safety.



If your pool was built prior to October 1, 2000, here are some **new requirements** of the law to consider implementing:

- Add a yard fence, minimum 4' high, with self-closing, self-latching gates that swing OUT from the pool area.
The yard fence may need to be combined with other elements, such as the wall of the house, to form a complete barrier
- Install an approved pool cover, pool net or child safety fence, which needs to be in place at all times the pool is not in use.



This type of child barrier needs to meet requirements similar to those for a fence.

One type of pool alarm, which sounds when a door or window is opened.



This brochure is for informational purposes only.
Additional information may be obtained
at the following Websites:



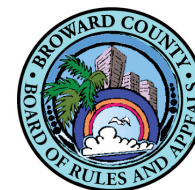
www.watersmartbroward.org

www.cpsc.gov • www.redcross.org



THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR PROFESSIONAL ADVICE!

- Contact a licensed **ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR** to inspect the electrical safety of your pool
- Contact a licensed **POOL CONTRACTOR** to inspect for pool safety issues not related to electrical concerns



BROWARD COUNTY
Board of Rules and Appeals
(BORA)
One North University Drive, 3500-B
Plantation FL 33324
TL: 954-765-4500
www.broward.org/codeappeals

The Board of Rules and Appeals is an independent agency created by Broward County Charter, and not an agency of the Broward County Commission.

7,500 copies of this public document were promulgated at a gross cost of \$3511.00, and \$0.468, per copy to provide the public with information about pool safety.

May 2015



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BROWARD COUNTY
Board of Rules
and Appeals
(BORA)

POOL SAFETY
INFORMATION

A message from BORA's CHIEF ELECTRIC CODE COMPLIANCE Officer



DON'T SWIM WITH SHOCKS!

What is the problem?

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has reports of 14 deaths related to electrocutions in swimming pools from 2003 to 2014. Hot tubs and spas may present the same electrical hazards as swimming pools.

What is electrocution?

Electrocution is death by an electrical shock. Wet skin, or wet surfaces such as grass or a pool deck, can greatly increase the chance of electrocution when electricity is present.

Where would I find electricity around pools, hot tubs and spas?

- Underwater lights, handrails
- Electric pool equipment - pumps, filters, vacuum, etc.
- Extension and power cords
- Electrical outlets or switches
- Radios, stereos, TVs and other electrical products
- Overhead power lines

How do I know if I or someone else may be receiving an electrical shock?

- Swimmers may feel a tingling sensation, experience muscle cramps, and/or not be able to move.
- Panic or unusual actions observed by other swimmers
- Lack of movement in swimmers

Dangerous items to look for.

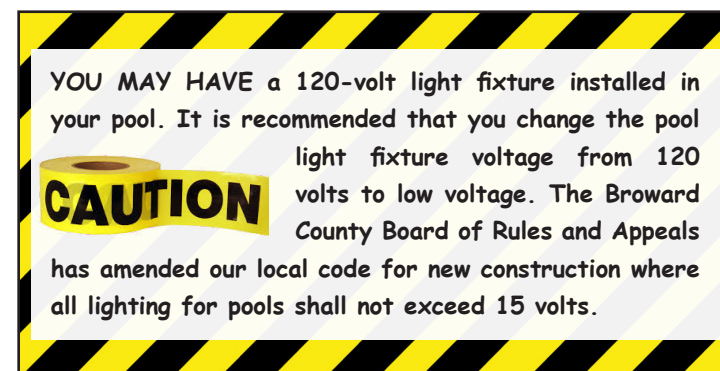
- Discolored light fixtures
- Broken or rusted electrical boxes and transformers
- Loose, broken and unattached wiring around pool equipment, screening and decking
- Broken switch or receptacle plates in the pool area
- Overhead power lines

Things not to do.

- Never swim alone
- Do not use electrical extension cords around pools
- Do not touch anything electrical when you are wet
- Do not allow an unqualified person to do electrical work on your pool

Things you can do.

- Locate and label all power switches to be turned off in case a shock occurs
- Use and test GFI receptacles around pool
- Learn CPR
- Have a fiberglass Shepherd's Hook nearby for rescue purposes
- Use only battery-powered appliances near pools



A message from BORA's CHIEF PLUMBING CODE COMPLIANCE Officer



This child was entrapped by a main drain in a swimming pool (child entrapment survivor)



Hair entrapment by a main drain

*There has been a lot of press recently about the dangers of **POOL DRAIN SUCTION**. Unfortunately, most people have no familiarity with a pool main drain, skimmer or vacuum pool fitting.*

There are 5 types of suction entrapment:

- **Hair Entrapment.** Hair knotted or snagged in an outlet cover
- **Limb Entrapment.** A limb inserted or drawn into an outlet opening with a broken or missing cover, resulting in a mechanical bind or swelling
- **Body Swelling Entrapment.** Suction applied to a large portion of the body, resulting in entrapment
- **Evisceration/Disembowelment.** Suction applied directly to intestines through an unprotected sump or suction outlet with a missing or broken cover
- **Mechanical Entrapment.** Jewelry, swimsuit, hair decoration, finger or toe, etc., caught in the opening of an outlet or cover

There are 4 methods of correcting a hazardous situation from dedicated main drain lines:

1. **Abandon** the Main Drain Line.
2. **Install** a Vacuum Safety Release System.
3. **Install** Dual Main Drains.
4. **Install** an approved main drain cover that meets American National Standards Institute (ANSI/APSP 7) for pools with one main drain.

Depending on your particular pool or spa situation, multiple methods may be required.

Other areas for suction problems are the **VACUUM LINE** for pool cleaners, and **WALL SKIMMERS**:



Vac Lock Safety Wall Fitting

The vacuum line should have a self-closing, self-latching fitting when not in use.

Swimmers should never be in the pool when it is being vacuumed.

It is recommended that the vacuum line be piped and valved so it can be turned off when not in use.

In most above-ground or in-ground pools and spas, there is a wall skimmer that draws the water out of the pool or spa and back to the filter.

The skimmer has a protective basket that sits on top of the actual intake at the bottom of the skimmer.

However, it is not unusual for someone to remove the basket for cleaning, and then forget to put it back in the skimmer. This creates a dangerous suction place in the pool deck. **Skimmer lids should have vent holes.**



There are very inexpensive safety face plates that can make the skimmer harder for hands to reach.