

Under 5 WaterWise Fact Sheet



Key Water Safety Statistics

- In the last 10 years (1997-2006) 101 children under the age of five have drowned.
- Twice as many preschool children drown in New Zealand than Australia per capita.
- 67% of all infant (up to 12 months of age) drownings occur in the bath.
- Nearly 50% of all preschool (1-5 years) drownings take place in home swimming pools. Home pools account for 43% of all aquatic related hospitalisations.
- Nine under fives were hospitalised as a result of a submersion incident in public pools during 2006.
- 73% of all infant drownings occurred on a residential property, namely the victims home. 61% of all aquatic related hospitalisations occur from residential property.
- The under 5 age group is the most represented in hospitalisation data for submersion incidents. Under fives equate to 24% of all hospitalisations from submersion incidents in 2006.

Key Water Safety Messages

- Always actively supervise children near water, ALWAYS!
- Maintain hand contact during bath time.
- Ensure any home pool is fenced in accordance with the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987 (FOSPA 1987).
- All parents should to take children to the pool for valued time together to develop the child's water confidence skills.

Key Water Safety New Zealand Resources

- A home water safety checklist – a guide to keep children safe from drowning by ensuring the home is 'water safe' in addition to constant supervision - available directly from WSNZ or via Plunket.
- Early Childhood Education (ECE) Kit's in both English and Te Reo.

WHY ACTIVELY SUPERVISE?

A one year old baby that was being bathed was left in a bath seat in the bath. The mother left to feed her other child, she returned 20mins later to find the child motionless under the water.

Family at New Years Eve party with other families when 1 year old drowned in an inflatable paddling pool 2m in diameter filled approx 30cm. Noticed missing after about 10min. Emergency services called and CPR attempted but to no avail.



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