

# FAMILY FUN AND SPA SAFETY

Like any body of water, a sparkling spa holds an irresistible attraction for children. What could be better than splashing around in the warm, bubbly water?

While a spa is a great place for families to bond, have fun, and spend quality time together, it also presents some safety considerations. Follow these simple guidelines from the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals™ and the Consumer Product Safety Commission, so everyone from the youngest to the oldest member of your family can enjoy your spa—and you can enjoy peace of mind.

## Play it safe

- Infants and toddlers should not be taken into a spa. They have thinner skin and can get overheated. Limit young children to five minutes in the spa at a time.
- Never leave children alone or let them out of your sight in or near your spa area—not even for a second. There's no substitute for responsible, alert adult supervision.
- Don't allow anyone, even an adult, to be in the spa alone without a "spotter" nearby.
- Always use an impenetrable, locked safety cover that completely covers the spa when it's not in use.
- Always remove the cover completely when using your spa, so a small child can't get trapped underneath and drown.
- Drain any standing water from the surface of your spa cover. An infant or small child can drown in even a very small quantity of water.
- Erect a fence or barrier around your outdoor spa—in accordance with your local ordinances—with a self-closing, locked gate. If your spa is indoors, keep the spa covered when not in use and the room locked.

- Keep chairs and tables a safe distance from the fence or barrier, so kids can't climb over. Consider using an alarm system that will signal if someone has penetrated the fence or barrier or entered the water.
- Trim trees, bushes, and vegetation so there is a clear view of your spa from the house and yard.

## Play it smart

- Make sure the spa has the dual drains and anti-entrapment drain covers required by current safety standards. Having two outlets for each pump on the spa lessens the amount of suction at any single outlet and prevents entrapment.
- Don't allow children to play in a way that could permit anyone's hair to come near the drain cover.
- Regularly have a professional check your spa and make sure it is in good, safe working condition, and that drain covers are in place and not cracked or missing. Check the drain covers on your own throughout the year.
- Know the location of the cut-off switch for your power so you can turn it off in an emergency.
- Keep the temperature of the water in the spa at 104 degrees Fahrenheit or below. Hot water temperatures also can pose a risk for pregnant women.
- Always maintain the proper Ph and disinfectant levels so your home spa does not become a breeding ground for bacteria.
- Be aware that consuming alcohol while using a spa could lead to accidents and drowning.