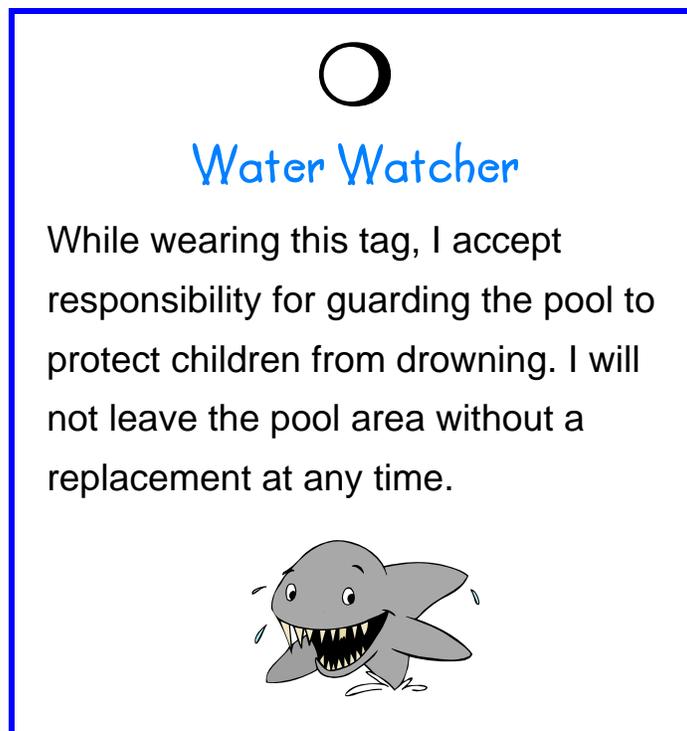


Children Drown ... Without a Sound!

The West Windsor Health Department encourages all pool owners to designate an adult **Water Watcher** whenever children are in the pool. We all get distracted ... it's easy to assume that another adult has taken responsibility for any children in the pool if we are called away from the pool area and other adults are in the pool area.

Designating a **Water Watcher** assures that an adult will always be watchful over any children in the water or pool area. If the designated **Water Watcher** has to leave the pool area for any reason, he/she must physically give their tag to another adult before they can leave. A **Water Watcher** agrees to:

- wear a **Water Watcher** I.D. tag when he/she is the designated adult **Water Watcher**.
- limit the number of children in the pool area and get help if it is needed before any children go into the water.
- continuously scan the water's surface and the bottom of the pool.
- avoid poolside chats, eating, talking on the phone and all other distractions.
- stop unsafe play and running in the pool area.
- keep a phone by the pool for emergency use only.
- locate and learn how to use the pool safety equipment.
- be CPR and First Aid certified.



If you would like a **Water Watcher** tag to use at your home pool, please contact the Health Department at 936-8400

POOL SAFETY

Each year, about 260 children under age 5 drown in swimming pools.

- If a child is missing, check the pool first. Seconds count!
- Learn to swim - both adults and children. This is the best way to be safe in the water.
- Knowing how to swim doesn't make a child drown-proof. Never use flotation devices or "swimmies" as a substitution for supervision.
- Never leave your children alone in or near the pool, even for a moment. An adult who knows CPR should actively supervise children at all times. Designate an adult **WATER WATCHER** whenever a child is in the pool.
- Practice "Touch Supervision" with children younger than 5 years. This means that the adult is within an arm's length of the child at all times.
- Make sure all children understand the pool safety rules.
- Put up a fence to separate your house from the pool. Most young children who drown in pools wander out of the house and fall into the pool. Install a fence at least 4 feet high around all 4 sides of the pool. This fence must completely separate the pool from the house and play area of the yard. Use gates that self-close and self-latch, with latches higher than your children's reach.
- Keep rescue equipment (such as a shepherd's hook or life preserver) and a telephone by the pool.
- Remove all toys from the pool after use so children aren't tempted to reach for them.
- After the children are done swimming, secure the pool so they can't get back into it. For above ground pools, steps and ladders to the pool should be secured or removed when the pool is not in use.
- A power safety cover that meets the standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) may add to the protection of your children but should not be used in place of the fence between your house and the pool. Even fencing around your pool and using a power safety cover will not prevent all drownings.

Remember, teaching your child how to swim
DOES NOT mean your child is safe in water.

West Windsor Health Department

