

## Safety and Security Lead to Fun and Fitness

Pools, spas, and hot tubs provide the opportunity for family and friends to come together for many hours of fun, fitness, and socialization, while improving health and wellbeing.

Like many other products you use everyday, there are rules to follow and safety devices to install that ensure a positive experience. For example, seatbelt use in a car provides essential protection for you and your children. You and your family will get the ultimate pleasure from all your pool, spa, or hot tub have to offer by following some basic rules, and being aware of necessary safety equipment.

Remember:

- **Never swim alone**
- **Always be sure there is an adult watching, with NO distractions**
- **Never enter a pool if the drain cover is broken or missing.**



## The Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Pool & Spa Safety Act

The VGB Act was passed by Congress with the support of the APSP and its members. The Act imposes requirements for all drain covers, and requires retrofitting of all public pools and spas. The Act also encourages each state to adopt entrapment avoidance laws for residential pools and spas and barrier requirements to prevent drowning.

### The Standard on Protection

APSP facilitated the creation of the definitive standard on suction entrapment. It was reviewed through a rigorous two year process with a group representing more than 70 organizations, government agencies and companies that are interested in protecting consumers, and was approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

**For further information, visit [www.apsp.org](http://www.apsp.org).**

Also, read the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission entrapment guidelines at: [www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/363.pdf](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/363.pdf).

***Always rely on a professional for all your pool, spa, and hot tub needs***

Safety is a core value of APSP members. To find an APSP member in your area, visit [www.apsp.org](http://www.apsp.org).



[www.apsp.org](http://www.apsp.org)

***Make your pool, spa or hot tub safe for your family with these***

# Entrapment Avoidance Guidelines



***NEW Virginia Graeme Baker Pool & Spa Safety Act sets standards for pool/spa drain covers. See important information inside!***



**Be Water Aware**



# Avoid Entrapment!

## Always Follow These Important Rules

- Never play or swim near drains or suction fittings. If a cover is not compliant, or is loose or broken, your body or hair may be trapped causing permanent injury or drowning.
- Never enter a pool or spa that has a loose, broken, or missing suction fitting or drain cover.
- Immediately notify the pool/spa owner or operator if you find a loose, broken, or missing drain cover. In such a case the pool or spa should be closed and an industry professional should make the necessary repair or replacement.

### Be Aware of the 5 Types of Entrapment:



- **Hair:** Hair can become entangled in an improperly covered drain.



- **Limbs:** Arms or legs can get lodged and may not be able to be pulled free from an improperly covered drain, even if the pumps are turned off.



- **Body:** Any part of the body that covers a drain can be held down by the suction.



- **Evisceration:** Sitting on a drain with suction or a broken or missing cover can cause injuries or disembowelment.



- **Mechanical:** Fingers, toes, and items such as jewelry or a bathing suit can become entangled and stuck in a non-compliant drain or cover.

*Always be sure your builder and service person are knowledgeable professionals who will build and service your pool to meet the ANSI/APSP -7 standard.*

*The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals offers its members continuing education and certification to be sure they are up-to-date on safety regulations and devices.*



## Take These 3 Steps to Keep Your Pool, Spa, or Hot Tub Safe and Free from Entrapment Risk

- 1 Have your pool or spa inspected by a licensed industry professional.
- 2 There is no backup for a broken, missing or inadequate cover. Replace any broken, missing or non compliant covers with covers that are marked: **"VGB2008," "ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007"** or show the swimmer logo.



*(Below: examples of proper drain covers)*



- 3 Pools or spas with a single main drain require additional protection. Options include
  - eliminating the drain or reversing the flow
  - adding a second, properly spaced outlet
  - installing an SVRS (safety vacuum release system)
  - installing an automatic pump shut-off system
  - installing a suction limiting vent system
  - adding a gravity drainage system