



# Layers of Protection

## ...to enhance the enjoyment of your pool or spa

The information that follows lists a number of options which should be evaluated as possible components of a layered approach to safety. APSP suggests that all pools and spas should be protected. A four-foot-high barrier that completely surrounds or seals the pool is common, but the barrier may include fencing, a wall of the house, or a power safety cover which is kept closed. Owners should always check, and comply with, state and local codes or ordinances requiring fences or other barriers.

The following list is intended to provide basic information about the range of products available to provide layers of safety. APSP cannot endorse or evaluate the effectiveness of any individual product, but encourages parents to investigate several of the listed options in the context of the type of pool or spa they have, the ages of children likely to be in the area, and neighborhood and topographical factors. Many of the products listed here are new, and represent significant technological advances over what was available just a few years ago.

APSP reminds parents that these options are “backups” to the only sure means of accident prevention, *adult supervision*.

### **1. Fencing**

**Purpose:**

To isolate the swimming pool by way of a four-foot-high enclosure

**Types:**

- a. Chain link
- b. Wooden picket
- c. Ornamental
- d. Portable fencing\*
- e. Natural barrier (thick hedge), if permitted by local code.

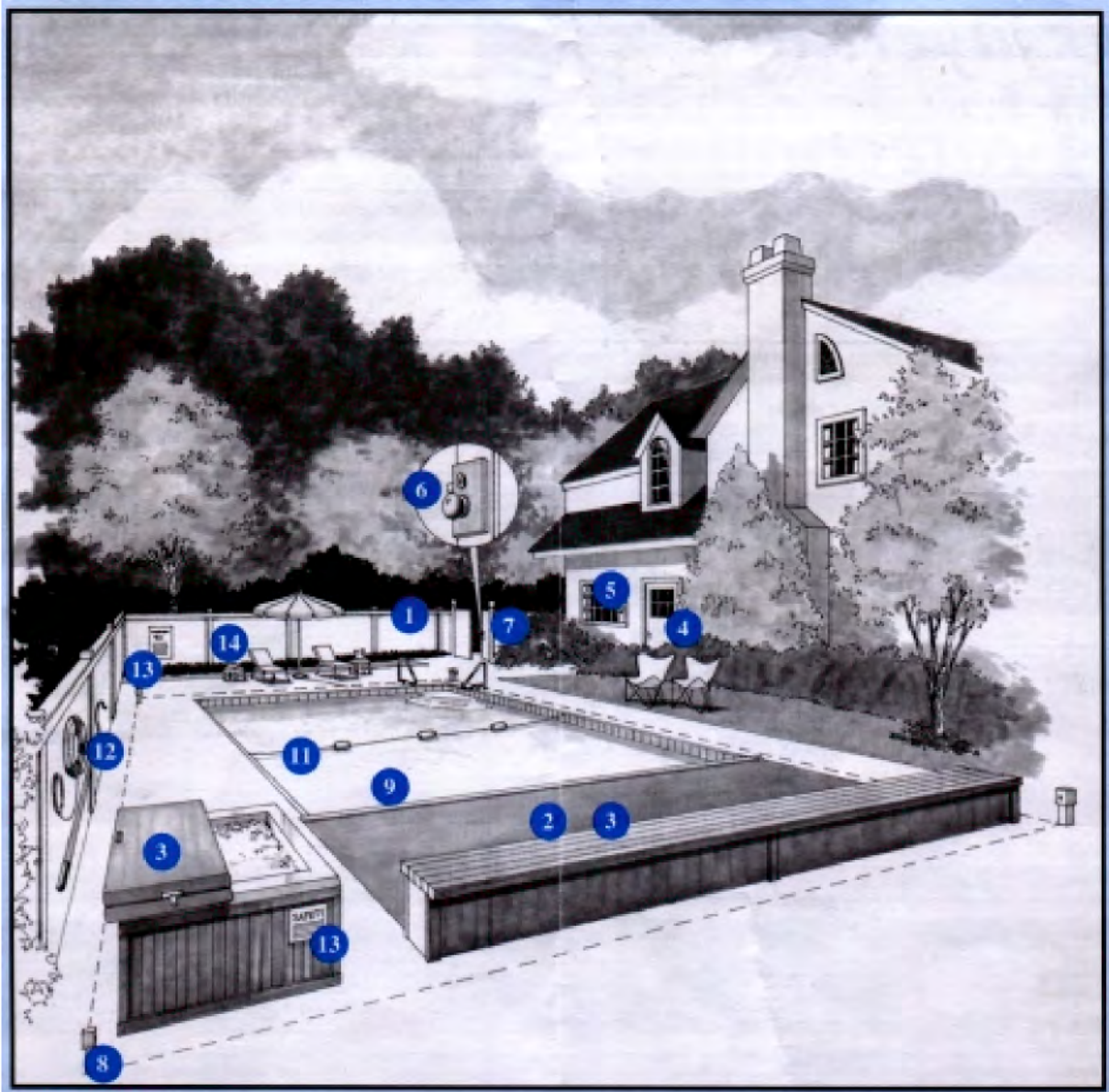
### **2. Automatic, Power Safety Covers**

**Purpose:**

An impenetrable covering that completely covers the pool, blocking access to water. Cover is operated by key or electronically controlled electric motor.

Types:

Meets ASTM F13-46 standard for “Automatic Cover” or “Power Safety Cover



### 3. Manual Safety Cover

Purpose:

An impenetrable covering that completely covers the pool or spa blocking access to water.

Types:

Meets ASTM F13-46 standard for “Manual Safety Cover”

#### **4. Door Exit Alarms**

Purpose:

Warns parent or guardian when a child opens the door.

Types:

- a. Door announcer/chime
- b. home security system

#### **5. Self-closing/self-latching devices for doors and latching devices for windows.**

Purpose:

Keeps all doors and windows leading to the pool or spa area securely closed, limiting access by unsupervised children.

Types:

- a. Hinge pin replacement
- b. Sliding glass door closer
- c. Swing arm

#### **6. Fence Gate Closer & Latch**

Purpose:

To close and latch fence gates securely, making a pool or spa inaccessible to a child

Types:

Self-latching with adjustable height

#### **7. Fence Gate Alarms**

Purpose:

Sounds when fence gate is open.

#### **8. Infrared Detectors**

Purpose:

Wireless detection alarm that sounds when the area around the pool perimeter is entered.

Types:

- a. Light-beam
- b. Body energy

## **9. Pool Alarms**

Purpose:

An alarm placed in the pool that sounds upon detection of accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water.

Types:

- a. Surface water (wave motion)
- b. Pressure waves (acoustic)
- c. Electronic monitoring system

## **10. Child Alarms**

Purpose:

An alarm clipped on the child that sounds when the child exceeds a certain distance or becomes submerged in water

Types:

Clip-on transmitter with in-home receiver

## **11. Rope & Float Line**

A rope & float line should be placed across the pool, alerting swimmers to the separation of the deep end and shallow end of the pool.

## **12. Life ring, Shepherd's Crook (Hook)**

All rescue equipment should be placed near the pool or spa in an easily accessible spot, and should be kept in good condition. These can be used to pull someone in trouble to safety.

## **13. Posted Emergency Information**

Post all CPR, other emergency information, and warning signs, as well as the 911 phone number (or other emergency medical service number) near the pool or spa.

## **14. Outside Telephone**

A cordless or poolside telephone means parents don't have to leave children unattended while they answer the phone. Also, it's a good idea to have one handy to summon help, if needed.

The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) believes that the home pool or spa provides a healthy, relaxing recreational opportunity for families in their own backyard. The Institute has worked with nationally recognized safety groups to provide information to assist pool and spa owners in meeting their safety needs.

While the number of pools and spas grows significantly each year, child drownings have been declining. Nevertheless, parents should be aware that any body of water poses a risk, especially for children under 5 years of age.

**Parents should know that adult supervision is the only way to prevent these accidents. They should maintain constant eye contact with children whenever they are near, or could get near, any body of water.** Unfortunately, most accidents occur when there is a lapse in supervision, even for a short time.

Recognizing these facts, APSP supports the concept of “Layers of Protection” for pools and spas, an idea that is widely embraced by safety experts. “Layers of Protection” means that, in addition to supervision, the pool or spa is equipped with several devices to delay a child’s unsupervised access, or warn of the child’s presence. These layers should be aimed at protecting the area between the house and the pool, since studies show that children are most at risk in their own backyard, when parents believe they are safely inside the house.

**Members of the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals are committed to the safe use and enjoyment of pools and spas, and adhere to a code of ethics. To maximize your enjoyment, deal with an APSP member firm, your pool and spa professional.**



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