

# Automatic Pool Covers



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# Reasons Why Automatic Safety Covers Are A Viable Alternative To Fencing

(All references to “Covers” means Automatic Covers that comply with A.S.T.M. F 1346-91 Standard)

## Safety Advantages:

- ❁ **Covers have an unblemished record.** Since 1960 when covers were first introduced, there has never been a drowning in a pool or spa that was equipped with a cover.
- ❁ **Covers are the equivalent of a “horizontal” fence.** Covers are the only barriers that prevent access to the pool water. Fences or “vertical” barriers, at best, prevent access to the pool area. Once inside the fence you have unrestricted access to the water.
- ❁ **Covers not only seal the pool but also eliminate visibility of the pool water, preventing children from being drawn toward the pool as a result of their natural attraction to the water.**
- ❁ **Covers eliminate the danger posed by the fascination children have with floating objects in the pool.** Claims have been made that toys floating in the pool attract children and contribute to the rate at which small children drown in residential pools.
- ❁ **Covers do not restrict view of the pool area.** Fences and walls may inhibit the view from the home or other areas in the yard to the pool area.
- ❁ **Covers can be monitored from a distance as to their closed and secured position.** when viewed from the house, it is difficult, at best, to determine if the pool is covered or uncovered.
- ❁ **Covers have a standard in place that assures their proper installation and adherence to rigid safety requirements.** A.S.T.M. F 1346-91, is a standard that mandates specific warning labels and very explicit performance criteria, among which are requirements that prevent small children from being able to operate the cover or access to the pool water.



# **Important Automatic Pool Cover Information**

## **•Fabric Strength**

•The automatic covers Knickerbocker Pools installs is a “safety cover” that meets or exceeds all of the A.S.T.M. standards for a safety cover. The cover creates a barrier capable of supporting the weight of several people (at least 485 lbs. in a 5’ radius).

## **•Covering the Pool Manually**

•In the event of an emergency (i.e. a power outage), it is possible to cover the pool manually to prevent access to the pool. Covering the pool manually requires two people. Remove the shifting collar to separate the main shaft from the motor shaft. Pull a few feet of the ropes off the rope reels on both sides of the cover. Pull the ropes evenly until the cover goes across the entire length of the pool until the pool is successfully closed. Power would need to be restored in order to open the pool cover.

## **•Operating Instructions**

- Maintain a clear view of the pool while operating the cover
- Never operate the cover with swimmers in the pool
- Restrict access of the operating switch to children and adults unfamiliar with the operation of the cover by removing the key from the switch.
- Always have the cover closed and the key removed from the switch when the pool is not in use.
- Keep rain water removed from the cover by always using the provided automatic cover pump included.

# **Economic and Miscellaneous Advantages**

- Covers are physically practical in situations where fencing may not be.
- Covers do not reduce the usable space available in backyards.
- Cover owners receive considerably more safety information from cover manufacturers than is generally provided by the fencing industry, increasing the level of safety consciousness of cover owners.
- Covers offer several non-safety benefits such as ease of maintenance and reduction in pool operating costs.
- Covers are not likely to be dismantled or removed.

# Children Drowning Study - Barriers

(Reprinted from a 1998 Northern California NSPI Chapter Newsletter)

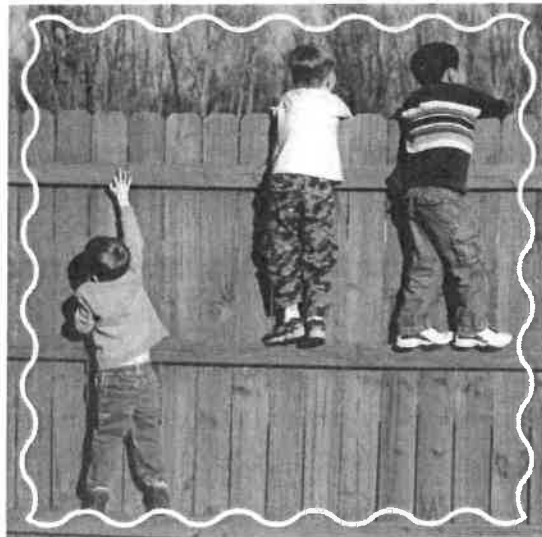
Over the past dozen or more years we have found ourselves debating the value of four-sided isolation fencing around swimming pools before city councils, county boards of supervisors and the State Legislature. At all of these political fights we were opposed by a coalition of “child drowning prevention” advocates. Perhaps the most prestigious of these organizations demanding four-sided fencing legislation has been the National Academy of Pediatrics. They have appeared in every hearing from the first one before the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

At every occasion, the pediatricians have staked their professional reputations on their “certain knowledge” that such isolation fencing would have saved all of the children who have drowned and who have been injured in near-drowning accidents. SPEC has always argued that this assertion was false. Isolation fences create a false sense of security, “allowing” those responsible for supervising toddlers playing in yards with fenced pools to drop their guards for “just a moment or two” to answer phones, front doors, make bathroom trips, etc., etc.

This past June the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics published the accompanying study, “Childhood Drowning and Fencing of Outdoor Pools in the United States, 1994.” The scientific study perhaps the only thorough study on this subject in the U.S., was designed to determine the effectiveness of four-sided isolation fencing in preventing child pool accidents. The study came to the same conclusion as did Dr. Lay’s study in Australia nearly a decade ago.

**“Our research suggests that even if all residential pools in the United States were properly fenced, most drowning among children 5 years of age would not be prevented.”**

## What child do you know that cannot climb a vertical fence?





**So remember...**

**A horizontal pool barrier, like an automatic swimming pool cover, prevents access to the water from any child!**

