

Drownings Increased 60% in Suffolk County in 2024

10 Ways to Prevent Drownings on Long Island



Designate a Water Watcher
Assign one adult to supervise kids near water—no phones, no alcohol, no side conversations.



Put Barriers in Place
Four-sided fences with self-latching gates around pools reduce drowning risk by up to 83%. Add door alarms and locks for extra protection.



Enroll your Child in Swim Lessons
Formal swim lessons and water safety education can reduce drowning risk by 88%.



Know Your Child's Abilities
Toddlers and children with developmental disabilities face higher drowning risks. Protect them with barriers, specialized lessons, and supervision.



Be Cautious in New & Distracting Settings
Stay alert of your child at parties or vacation rentals. Scan for hazards upon arrival.



Follow Boating Laws
Children under 12 must wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket while on a boat or watercraft in NY. Adults should lead by example.



Swim in Designated Areas
Only swim when a lifeguard is on duty. Obey flags and posted signs.



Beware of Rip Currents
Learn to spot them. If caught, stay calm, swim parallel to shore or float with the current and signal for help.



Stay Alert
Hazards are everywhere. Bathtubs, kiddie pools, fountains, and even buckets can be deadly. Drowning is the leading cause of death for U.S. children ages 1 to 4.



Learn CPR
When performed immediately and correctly, CPR can dramatically increase survival rates.

Layers of Protection Save Lives