

# Warning!

Flotation toys and swimming aids are not life saving devices, and should only be used under strict supervision

They **will not** prevent children from drowning

For product safety advice contact:

Department of Consumer and Employment Protection  
Consumer Protection Advice Line 1300 30 40 54  
(for the cost of a local call statewide)

8.30am - 5.00pm weekdays

Product Safety Unit: 9282 4319

Department of Consumer and Employment Protection  
Forrest Centre  
219 St Georges Terrace  
Perth, Western Australia 6000

Locked Bag 14, Cloisters Square, Western Australia 6850

Administration: (08) 9282 0777

Fax: (08) 9282 0850

TTY: (08) 9282 0800

Website: [www.docep.wa.gov.au](http://www.docep.wa.gov.au)

Email: [consumer@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:consumer@docep.wa.gov.au)

Great Southern (08) 9842 8366

South-West (08) 9722 2888

Mid-West (08) 9964 5644

Goldfields/Esperance (08) 9021 5966

North-West (08) 9185 0900



Department of Consumer  
and Employment Protection  
Government of Western Australia

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# flotation toys & swimming aids

SAFETY FOR KIDS  
in the home 



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Department of Consumer  
and Employment Protection  
Government of Western Australia





Toys for use in water are not life saving devices.

Flotation toys and swimming aids likely to be used by children under 15 years of age, in recreational activities or to assist in swimming tuition, may include items such as:

- ◆ rings, partial rings and arm bands;
- ◆ inflatable novelty shapes;
- ◆ kick boards; and
- ◆ swimming vests and flotation bubbles.



## The law

There is a product safety law for flotation toys and swimming aids.

The law requires that flotation toys and swimming aids for children must comply with the Australian Standard *AS 1990 Children's Flotation Toys and Swimming Aids*.

Flotation toys, swimming aids and their packaging must include warnings in a prominent and visible position. Some examples of warnings are detailed below.

### Flotation toys

FLOTATION TOY  
**WARNING**  
USE ONLY UNDER  
COMPETENT SUPERVISION

### Swimming aid vests

SWIMMING AID VEST  
**WARNING**  
USE ONLY UNDER  
COMPETENT SUPERVISION  
NOT FOR USE IN BOATING

**This brochure is only a guide.** Information detailing the exact requirements can be obtained by contacting the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection or by referring to the Order on the product safety website [www.docep.wa.gov.au/productsafety](http://www.docep.wa.gov.au/productsafety)

## Safety tips

In one year 48 children aged 0-14 years old drowned in Australia. These deaths are a reminder that every exposed water source, no matter how shallow, poses a significant danger. To reduce the risk of drowning around your home, remember these rules.

- ◆ Children should always be supervised by a responsible adult when exposed to water. This means actively watching them, not just glancing up every now and then.
- ◆ Continue to supervise children even when they are wearing swimming aids. Swimming aids will not protect children from drowning. No swimming aid is intended to take the place of adequate supervision.
- ◆ Supervision of children using inflatable pools should be as strict as for full size pools. A smaller volume of water does not necessarily mean a smaller risk.
- ◆ Empty inflatable pools and other containers of water after use and store away.
- ◆ Swimming pools, including inflatable pools, are required by law to be appropriately fenced. Your local council can provide information about pool fencing laws.
- ◆ Cover or keep out of reach any water features, ponds, aquariums or similar containers of water.
- ◆ Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). It can be a lifesaver.