

# Water Safety Information



WaterMarc™  
Banyule

Here are some simple tips to help prevent fun turning to tragedy when in or around water.

## At the beach

Always swim at patrolled beaches between the red and yellow flags and always listen to the lifeguards.

Remember to be sun smart:

- Slip on a shirt, slap on a hat, slop on some sunscreen, slide on some shades and seek out some shade
- Keep an eye on the shore line while swimming and pick a reference point to keep your bearings
- Watch for a RIP – they're calm patches in the surf which have very dangerous undertow

## At the river or lake

- Check with a responsible local about known, safe swimming areas
- Check the river current before getting in
- Check the depth before entering the water
- Never jump or dive into unclear water. Shallow water and submerged objects can cause serious injury
- Rivers and lakes are constantly shifting, deep holes and shifting sands can change safe shallow water to deep very quickly. Check the water each time before you swim
- Avoid swimming around boats and near boat ramps.
- Boat drivers find it difficult to see you in the water

## Aboard the boat

- Know and follow state boating law requirements
- Let someone know before you go
- Check the day's weather forecast
- Ensure correct fitting life jackets are available and worn
- Check you've got the right equipment on board – fire extinguisher, first aid kit, correct fuel and fresh water

## On the farm

- Make sure children are actively supervised at all times
- Create a safe play area for children
- Beware of slippery edges and muddy banks around dams
- Never swim in irrigation channels, water levels and flow can change rapidly without warning
- Reduce the risk of drowning by securing water tanks, feed troughs and animal dips
- Fill in ditches and holes to avoid them trapping water and being a danger to young children

## Gear up for a great time

You know the importance of selecting a great holiday destination and you pride yourself on being fully packed and prepared. So this summer gear up for water safety as well, to help keep your family safe. Water is a very unforgiving environment so:

### Supervise to stay alive

Keep your friends and family in sight at all times. Young children should never be more than an arm's length away.

Learning to swim is great but it needs to be balanced with water safety knowledge and skills - knowledge and understanding of the many aquatic environments we have the luxury of enjoying and the skills to be able to recognise danger and act appropriately to ensure personal safety.

### Never swim alone

Be a good role model and practise safe water fun. Join your friends and family in the water and know the conditions before getting in.

Water – great to swim, surf and play in but it's also important for you to drink, so make sure you have an ample supply on hand.

## At bath time

- Provide full time adult supervision
- Immediately empty the bath after use
- Turn off the TV and phone

## At home

- Fence home pools with self-closing gates and child proof locks
- Undertake regular safety checks and maintenance of pool fencing and gates
- Never leave anything against or leaning near pool fencing that children could climb on
- Designate an adult to fully supervise children in your back yard pool
- To reduce the attraction for younger children, clear and pack away all pool equipment after each use
- If collecting water around the home ensure there is a safe barrier between the container and children
- After each use drain and store wading pools
- Cover fish ponds and water features with firm mesh or grating