



[www.toysafety.org](http://www.toysafety.org) [watch@toysafety.org](mailto:watch@toysafety.org)

## **W.A.T.C.H.'S "10 SUMMER SAFETY TRAPS" FOR 2025**

*Tips to Keep Kids Safe -  
10 Summer Safety Traps Associated with  
Toys and Outdoor Recreational Products*

**THIS YEAR AIRBORNE BEACH UMBRELLAS, TOXIC GARDENING TOYS, RAINWATER FILLED KIDDIE POOLS, AND IMPROPERLY MAINTAINED SPLASH PADS, ILLUSTRATE SOME OF THE MANY POTENTIAL HAZARDS TO WATCH OUT FOR SO CHILDREN CAN HAVE A SAFER SUMMER.**

**SUMMER IS OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY. AS CHILDREN SPEND MORE TIME PLAYING OUTDOORS, THERE WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN INJURIES. W.A.T.C.H. EMPHASIZES THAT RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT RECURRING SAFETY TRAPS, MANY LINKED TO SERIOUS INJURIES OR DEATHS IN PAST SUMMERS, CAN HELP PROTECT FAMILIES.**

**W.A.T.C.H.'S LIST OF "10 SUMMER SAFETY TRAPS" REVEALS OFTEN OVERLOOKED HAZARDS, SOME HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT, THAT CAN IMPACT CHILDREN DURING THIS HIGH-RISK SEASON. POTENTIAL HAZARDS LIKE BEACH UMBRELLAS TURNED INTO WIND-BLOWN PROJECTILES, BACKYARD TRAMPOLINES LINKED TO CATASTROPHIC INJURIES, PUBLIC SPLASH PADS THAT MAY HARBOR INVISIBLE PATHOGENS, AND GEL BEADS AS "AMMUNITION" THAT A YOUNG CHILD COULD INGEST, ARE JUST A FEW OF THE TRAPS THAT COULD LEAD TO PREVENTABLE TRAGEDIES.**

### **INDEX**

- 1. DON'T LET IT FLY: BEACH UMBRELLAS**
- 2. PLAYING IN THE DIRT: GARDENING TOYS & YARD HAZARDS**
- 3. FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY: INFLATABLE POOL TOYS**
- 4. DOUBLE TROUBLE: TOY PROJECTILES & AMMO (WATER BEADS & BALLOONS)**
- 5. SMALL WHEELS, BIG RISKS: SCOOTERS (MOTORIZED & NON-MOTORIZED)**
- 6. TOO HOT TO HANDLE: FIREWORKS AND SPARKLERS**
- 7. PLAYGROUND PERILS: DEADLY STRAPS & DANGEROUS STRUCTURES**
- 8. SHALLOW BUT SERIOUS: BABY POOLS**
- 9. HIGH-FLYING HAZARDS: BACKYARD TRAMPOLINES AND INFLATABLE BOUNCE HOUSES**
- 10. GERMS IN THE MIST: SPLASH PAD DANGERS**

## TRAP #1

### DON'T LET IT FLY: BEACH UMBRELLAS



<b>DID YOU KNOW?</b>	A beach umbrella can quickly turn from a shade provider to an airborne spear in a wind gust. With families flocking to the beach for relief from record-breaking heat this summer, flying umbrellas may pose a serious safety risk; Children are especially vulnerable because of their smaller size and slower reaction time.
<b>HAZARD</b>	Improperly designed or anchored beach umbrellas can turn into windblown projectiles, causing injuries from cuts and bruises to impalement or death.
<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	<p><b>Beach umbrellas can quickly become dangerous projectiles.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2024, a 13-year-old boy in Gloucester, MA was seriously injured when a beach umbrella became airborne and impaled his shoulder. <sup>i</sup></li> <li>• In 2022, a woman died when an umbrella pierced her chest in South Carolina. <sup>ii</sup></li> <li>• These aren't isolated freak accidents— nearly 3,000 people visit U.S. emergency departments each year due to umbrella-related incidents. <sup>iii</sup></li> </ul>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission ( <b>CPSC</b> ), which has issued safety alerts about the dangers of unsecured beach umbrellas, warns that these incidents are “all too common.” <sup>iv</sup> <b>New ASTM safety standards</b> recommend that umbrellas resist at least 75 lbs. of upward force and stay anchored in winds up to 30 mph. <sup>v</sup> Still, most umbrellas don't meet this standard unless paired with a compliant anchor device as per the manufacturer's instructions.
<b>TO DO:</b>	Check the weather before setting up. Remove umbrellas during gusty conditions. Keep umbrellas out of play areas. Closely supervise kids near beach gear. Anchor securely using equipment that meets ASTM F3681. And remember, voluntary standards may not always be fully enforced and, in some cases, may reflect baseline recommendations rather than comprehensive safety measures. <i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a>.</i>

**TRAP #2**

**PLAYING IN THE DIRT: GARDENING TOYS & YARD HAZARDS**



<b>DID YOU KNOW?</b>	<b>Toy garden tools may look harmless, but hidden dangers can lurk.</b> Some sets have been recalled for banned toxins like lead and phthalates, while others may pose risks from sharp points. And let’s not forget that backyard gardens can be minefields of real-world hazards.
<b>HAZARD:</b>	Risk of lacerations, amputations, choking, drowning, and toxic exposure from unsafe toys or nearby garden chemicals.
<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	<p><b>Toy garden sets invite kids to explore, but outdoor play near real garden tools and chemicals can double the danger.</b> Recent recalls revealed banned toxins like lead and phthalates in kids' gardening sets– hazards that families can't see, let alone detect. Digging in the dirt may bring children dangerously close to riding mowers, sharp tools, pesticides, and buckets filled with water (see Trap #8).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nearly 460,000 Stanley-Branded Jr.® toy gardening sets <b>recalled</b> for lead paint. (CPSC, September 2024) <sup>vi</sup></li> <li>Thousandshores Threefin Kids® Gardening Tools recalled for phthalates in excess of the federal ban. (CPSC, June 2024) <sup>vii</sup></li> <li>The problem of toxic toys extends beyond gardening toys: <b>Thousands of toys continue to be recalled each year for toxic substances.</b></li> </ul>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	<b>Toxic substances like lead,</b> found in some recalled toy gardening tools, can cause vomiting, developmental delays, and lasting neurological harm, especially to <b>young children who tend to put everything in their mouths.</b> But toys are not the only concern when kids are playing in the garden: <b>watch out for “grown-up” tools and toxins in the yard.</b> Over 8,600 children were injured by hand garden tools and lawn/garden equipment in 2023. <sup>viii</sup> <b>Lawn mowers</b> are the <b>leading cause of limb loss</b> in the U.S. to children under 10. <sup>ix</sup>
<b>TO DO:</b>	Check all garden play sets for <b>sharp edges</b> and <b>recall status</b> at <a href="https://www.cpsc.gov/recalls">cpsc.gov/recalls</a> . Unfortunately, not all unsafe toys are recalled and toxins like lead are invisible placing an unrealistic burden on parents and caregivers. Keep <b>real gardening tools, chemicals,</b> and <b>water buckets</b> far from kids’ reach. Supervise outdoor play closely. <i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="https://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a>.</i>

**TRAP #3**

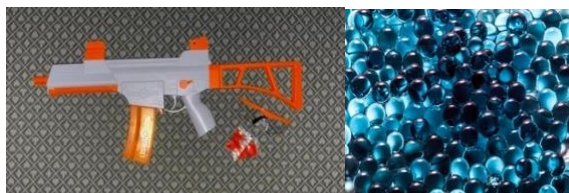
**FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY: INFLATABLE POOL TOYS**



<b>DID YOU KNOW?</b>	That cute unicorn float may look harmless, but inflatable pool toys like water wings, rings, and rafts, aren't life-saving devices. They can flip, deflate, or drift into deeper water fast. Even in shallow water, they can block your view of a struggling child. Supervision, not a floatie, is your child's best protection in or near the water.
<b>HAZARD:</b>	Inflatable toys can tip, deflate, or drift away, posing a real drowning risk, especially for younger children.
<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	<p>As temperatures rise, families will be hitting the pool to cool off but beware of relying on inflatables. <b>Water rings that fit around a child's waist are staples at many swimming pools in the summer, but one lesser-known potential hazard that parents should be aware of is the risk of tip over:</b> If an inner tube flips over, in an instant a child can become trapped headfirst under water. <b>Flotation devices, such as water wings, can provide a false sense of security that a child is safe in the water.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last month, a 5-year-old saved her 3-year-old sister from drowning after the younger girl removed her floaties and slipped back into the water. (Texas, May 2025)<sup>x</sup></li> <li>• A 3-year-old girl, wearing a pool float around her waist, nearly drowned after she was trapped upside down in the pool.<sup>xi</sup> (GA, 2019)</li> <li>• In 2018, a 4-year-old boy drowned after reaching for a pink inflatable inner tube and slid off the deck into the water.<sup>xii</sup></li> </ul>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	Inflatables are made for fun not for safety. Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 1 to 4. <sup>xiii</sup> Roughly 4,000 people drown every year in the U.S. (about 11 per day). <sup>xiv</sup>
<b>TO DO:</b>	Drownings can happen in the time it takes to answer a text. Keep kids within arm's reach, with no exceptions, and never depend on inflatable toys to keep them safe. Use multiple barriers like fences and pool alarms. After swim time, remove toys so they don't lure kids back in. <i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a>.</i>

**TRAP #4**

**DOUBLE TROUBLE: TOY PROJECTILES & AMMO (WATER BEADS & BALLOONS)**



<b>DID YOU KNOW?</b>	Summer’s surge in outdoor play means more kids with water balloon launchers and gel blasters in hand. But high-powered projectiles have been linked with serious, sometimes permanent, eye injuries. Ammo left behind in backyard lawns– colorful water (aka gel) beads, busted darts, balloons– can be dangerous to younger siblings or curious toddlers.
<b>HAZARD:</b>	High-impact launchers have the potential to cause <b>serious eye trauma</b> , while “ammo” like balloons or gel beads can pose <b>choking or ingestion</b> risks, including <b>intestinal blockages or even death</b> , in young children.
<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 10-month-old died after ingesting a water bead from an activity set (WI, 2023).<sup>xv</sup></li> <li>• Balloons are a well-known choking risk for young children. A baby choked to death after swallowing pieces of a balloon. (India, sept. 2022).<sup>xvi</sup></li> <li>• A recent medical study reported <b>two children suffered eye ruptures</b> from projectile toys, with dozens more hospitalized for serious eye injuries. <sup>xvii</sup></li> </ul>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	Some <b>projectile toys</b> can launch <b>up to 200 feet</b> . Over <b>7,800 water bead ingestion injuries</b> were reported between 2016–2022, mostly to kids under 6. <sup>xviii</sup> These beads can look like candy, expand 100x their size if swallowed, and may contain toxic chemicals. After W.A.T.C.H. listed Orbeez® beads in its 2023 “Worst Toys” list, some major retailers pulled similar items, and the CPSC urged removal of gel beads from homes with children. Still, water beads are widely available. <b>Balloon pieces from launchers</b> also pose a choking risk, especially to kids under 8. <b>Toy guns</b> can pose risks beyond ingestion and eye injuries, including <b>confusion with real weapons</b> . In 2024, Victor Electric® Soft Bullet Toy Guns were recalled for lacking an orange safety tip and failing federal standards. <sup>xix</sup>
<b>TO DO:</b>	<b>Stay alert!</b> Beware, some toy guns and projectiles have been linked to serious eye trauma. If older kids are permitted to use them, supervise play, require eye protection, and clean up ammo like gel beads, darts, and balloons. These tiny pieces may look harmless but can be deadly if swallowed by younger children. If you have little ones at home, skip water beads altogether. <i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a>.</i>

## TRAP #5

### SMALL WHEELS, BIG RISKS: SCOOTERS (MOTORIZED AND NON-MOTORIZED)



<b>DID YOU KNOW?</b>	<b>Non-motorized (aka kick) scooters</b> cause <b>more toy-related injuries</b> than any other toy. <b>E-scooters</b> can reach 15 to 20 mph and are <b>not recommended for kids under 16</b> , as per the American Academy of Pediatrics. <sup>xx</sup>
<b>HAZARD:</b>	Falls, crashes, and lack of protective gear can potentially lead to broken bones, concussions, and even fatalities.
<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	<p>Scooter use spikes in the summer and so do emergency department visits. Both electric and kick scooters pose dangers. Non-motorized scooters are often underestimated but cause thousands of injuries annually. Motorized ones, while trendy, are not meant for kids and demand adult-level coordination and judgment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2025, a 9-year-old boy in Las Vegas, Nevada, suffered life-threatening injuries riding an e-scooter into traffic.<sup>xxi</sup></li> <li>• A 6-year-old girl was killed in 2023 when hit by a truck while in a crosswalk on a scooter.<sup>xxii</sup></li> <li>• In 2019, five children, 2- to 13-years old, died in nonmotorized scooter-associated incidents. Four were struck and killed by motor vehicles while riding nonmotorized scooters, and one died after falling from a nonmotorized scooter.<sup>xxiii</sup></li> </ul>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	<b>In 2023, non-motorized scooters caused 53,000 injuries,<sup>xxiv</sup> and e-scooters sent over 189,000 people to hospitals.</b> This represents a significant increase from previous years. <sup>xxv</sup> From 2019–2022, <b>powered scooter injuries rose 88%,<sup>xxvi</sup></b> with some cities declaring a state of emergency due to fatalities. <sup>xxvii</sup>
<b>TO DO:</b>	<b>Non-motorized scooters may seem harmless but know the history of injuries before deciding if this toy is appropriate for your child.</b> If a child is permitted to ride a scooter, <b>protective gear</b> , such as helmets and pads, is a must even for short rides, as most injuries happen close to home. <b>E-scooters are not toys.</b> If your teen is old enough and permitted to ride, make sure they know the rules, wear protective gear, and understand traffic laws. <i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a>.</i>

**TRAP #6**

**TOO HOT TO HANDLE: FIREWORKS AND SPARKLERS**



<b>DID YOU KNOW?</b>	<p><b>Many parents wouldn't let a young child light birthday candles</b>, yet more than half say it is acceptable for kids to use sparklers and fireworks.<sup>xxviii</sup> But sparklers burn at nearly 2,000°F and fireworks can cause severe injuries. <b>Even children who aren't handling fireworks are at risk; kids make up a large share of bystanders injured each year.</b></p>
<b>HAZARD:</b>	<p>Potential for severe burns, eye injuries, hand trauma, and even death from direct or nearby contact.</p>
<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	<p>With many fireworks and sparkler injuries happening in the weeks around Fourth of July, this is a critical time for families to stay alert and take steps to keep kids safe as many incidents are preventable. Even with the high number of annual injuries, fireworks remain a staple in many backyard celebrations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 17-year-old boy died after a mortar-style firework exploded in his hand at a backyard party (July 2023).<sup>xxix</sup></li> <li>• A 15-year-old was fatally struck in the chest after leaning over a lit mortar-style firework (July 2023).<sup>xxx</sup></li> <li>• A 4-year-old girl in Boston was burned when she grabbed a lit sparkler someone else was holding (July 2019).<sup>xxxi</sup></li> </ul>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	<p>Fireworks injuries are on the rise<sup>xxxii</sup>—with more than 9,700 injuries treated in U.S. emergency departments in 2023 alone. Sparklers alone accounted for around 700 of those cases.<sup>xxxiii</sup> Fireworks can cause devastating injuries, especially to the eyes. 1 in 4 people with a firework-related eye injury loses vision permanently.<sup>xxxiv</sup> <b>Sparklers are often handed to kids but burn at nearly 2,000°F</b>, which is hot enough to ignite clothing and cause deep burns.</p>
<b>TO DO:</b>	<p><b>Fireworks are not toys</b>; leave them to the professionals. Kids should never light fireworks or stand close to someone who is. <b>Rethink sparklers too.</b> They may be popular at 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations, but they are far from harmless. <i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a>.</i></p>



**TRAP #7**

**PLAYGROUND PERILS: DEADLY STRAPS & DANGEROUS STRUCTURES**



<b>DID YOU KNOW?</b>	<b>With more kids at playgrounds during the summer, risks rise.</b> Most parents check for hot slides or hard ground surfaces, but <b>hidden dangers like dangling straps and broken or defective equipment often go unnoticed.</b> Helmet straps, drawstrings, and loose clothing can get caught during play, while faulty equipment may cause serious injuries.
<b>HAZARD:</b>	Potential for strangulation, crush injuries, and falls due to entanglements and unsafe or defective structures.
<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	<p>Summer playground visits should be fun, but whether kids are at a local park or on a backyard jungle gym, hidden dangers like defective equipment and strangulation hazards can easily be missed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A recalled merry-go-round was pulled from the market after reports of crush injuries. (CPSC, December 2024)<sup>xxxv</sup></li> <li>• A 3-year-old girl died after a rope reportedly became entangled around her neck at a daycare playground. (SD, May 2021)<sup>xxxvi</sup></li> </ul>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	<p><b>Playground injuries are one of the leading causes of unintentional injury to children.</b> In 2023, there were an estimated 190,942 playground equipment related injuries.<sup>xxxvii</sup> From 2014 to 2021, 43 playground equipment-related deaths were reported.<sup>xxxviii</sup> <b>The most common cause of death on playgrounds is strangulation</b>—often from clothing, strings, and ropes.<sup>xxxix</sup> There have been multiple recalls of playground equipment due to safety concerns<sup>xl</sup> as well as children’s clothing with drawstrings due to strangulation risks.<sup>xli</sup> From Jan. 1985-June 2019, 26 children reportedly died when clothing drawstrings became entangled on playground slides and other objects.<sup>xlii</sup> Nonetheless, clothes with similar hazards still appear in stores.</p>
<b>TO DO:</b>	<p><b>Playground safety starts before your child climbs, swings, or slides.</b> Stay alert for hidden hazards, including broken or recalled equipment (check <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/recalls">www.cpsc.gov/recalls</a>) and dangling items such as drawstrings, scarves, or helmet straps that can pose strangulation risks.</p> <p><b>Helmets are essential for biking and scootering, but they should come off before playground use.</b> For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a>.</p>



**TRAP #8**

**SHALLOW BUT SERIOUS: BABY POOLS**



<b>DID YOU KNOW?</b>	Children can drown in as little as one to two inches of water, quietly and in a matter of seconds. <sup>xliii</sup> Baby pools, buckets, and rainwater on pool covers can become deadly safety traps for young children.
<b>HAZARD:</b>	Potential for child drowning incidents, even in shallow water.
<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	<p>Backyard water play may seem harmless, but <b>baby pools, buckets, and fountains filled with water can quickly become deadly traps</b>—especially since they’re rarely surrounded by fences or safety barriers like larger pools. <b>Portable and convenient to assemble, baby pools can be an unexpected safety trap.</b> Watch out for <b>rainwater</b> that can collect in unanticipated places, like <b>sagging pool covers</b>. These shallow water dangers are easy to overlook, but drownings can occur silently and swiftly, highlighting the urgency of awareness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A baby drowns after falling into a bucket. (India, June 2025)<sup>xliv</sup></li> <li>• A seven-month-old baby drowns in a bucket of water. (Philippines, October 2024)<sup>xlv</sup></li> <li>• A 1-year-old girl drowned after her dog knocked her into the partially emptied backyard baby pool that still held 9 inches of water. (LA, July 2023)<sup>xlvi</sup></li> <li>• A toddler drowns in a backyard kiddie pool. (TX, May 2022)<sup>xlvii</sup></li> </ul>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	<b>Vigilance is crucial, as most drowning incidents are preventable.</b> Among toddlers and preschoolers, drowning is the top cause of accidental death. <sup>xlviii</sup> <b>Most fatal drownings occur at homes<sup>xlix</sup> during the summer.<sup>1</sup></b> Backyards can hide unexpected dangers, even just a few inches of water in a bucket or a dog bowl, enough to cover a child’s nose and mouth, can become a safety trap for a crawling baby. <sup>li</sup>
<b>TO DO:</b>	<b>Drowning can happen in seconds, even in shallow water, so stay alert.</b> Always supervise children closely and use barriers to block access to water. Immediately empty baby pools, buckets, and other containers after use, and never leave them unattended. Watch for rainwater collecting in unexpected places like pool covers. Remove toys from the water that could entice children back after swim time is over, and review water safety procedures regularly. <i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a>.</i>

## TRAP #9

### HIGH-FLYING HAZARDS: BACKYARD TRAMPOLINES AND INFLATABLE BOUNCE HOUSES



<b>DID YOU KNOW?</b>	Trampolines and bounce houses might be staples of backyard birthdays and summer celebrations, but popularity doesn't equal safety. These high-energy attractions are associated with serious injuries and fatalities.
<b>HAZARD:</b>	Potential for serious injuries, including broken bones, head trauma, paralysis, and death.
<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	<p>A moment of fun can turn tragic when bounce houses are swept into the air by wind or when a child jumps on a trampoline and suffers life-altering harm. Thousands of kids are hurt each year while simply jumping, flipping, or playing. Padding, netting, and adult supervision may seem reassuring— but the data tells a different story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 3-year-old died after being thrown from a backyard trampoline lifted by a wind gust. (England, May 2025)<sup>lii</sup></li> <li>• A 5-year-old-boy died after a bounce house at a baseball game flies 15 to 20 ft. into the air with children inside. (MD, August 2024)<sup>liii</sup></li> <li>• A teen girl suffered a spinal stroke and was paralyzed from the waist down after jumping on a trampoline. (PA, 2020).<sup>liv</sup></li> <li>• A 13-year-old boy severed his spinal cord and is left paralyzed from the waist down after doing a flip at a trampoline park. (CA, 2019)<sup>lv</sup></li> </ul>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	<p>Awareness is key to preventing life-changing harm. In <b>2023</b>, an estimated <b>111,212 trampoline-related injuries</b> were reported, with over <b>93,000</b> involving children under 15.<sup>lvi</sup> More than <b>85%</b> of trampoline injuries happen at home.<sup>lvii</sup> Between 2000–2021, nearly <b>10,000 emergency visits</b> in the U.S. were linked to bounce houses.<sup>lviii</sup> A study found <b>28 deaths and 479 injuries</b> from wind-related bounce house incidents worldwide.<sup>lix</sup></p>
<b>TO DO:</b>	<p>Don't be fooled by bright colors or popularity— bounce houses and trampolines carry real risks. <b>Trampolines are not toys</b>, and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly discourages home use.<sup>lx</sup> Bounce houses may be a common feature at parties, but past injuries and deaths, including those caused by wind-blown structures, are a reminder of the <b>inherent potential danger</b>. These inflatables also invite close proximity play, increasing the risk of collisions. Know the facts and check for reported injuries before choosing toys and activities for children. <i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a>.</i></p>

**TRAP #10**

**GERMS IN THE MIST: SPLASH PAD DANGERS**



<b>DID YOU KNOW?</b>	<b>Community splash pads</b> may look like harmless fun, but they have triggered <b>10,611 illnesses</b> and <b>152 hospitalizations</b> between 1997 and 2022. <sup>lxi</sup> Invisible pathogens can thrive in the water, especially in poorly maintained or recirculated systems. Young children face the highest risk.
<b>HAZARD:</b>	Severe stomach illness from contaminated water, especially in recirculating systems that aren't properly filtered or disinfected.
<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	<p><b>Splash pads, popular attractions at parks and playgrounds</b>, are designed for carefree summer play, but they can <b>hide an invisible threat</b>. Without strict treatment and maintenance, splash pads can become breeding grounds for waterborne germs. With young children, a simple splash pad stomach bug can turn serious fast, in some cases leading to dehydration and medical complications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2005 in New York, an estimated 3,800 fell ill <b>from</b> <i>Cryptosporidium</i>.<sup>lxii</sup></li> <li>• Dozens of kids were hospitalized in Kansas after getting sick from a splash pad at a wildlife park (CDC, 2021)<sup>lxiii</sup></li> <li>• Outbreaks have sent children to emergency rooms with norovirus, <i>Cryptosporidium</i>, and other dangerous illnesses.<sup>lxiv</sup></li> </ul>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	<b>Most outbreaks affect kids under 5 and strike in the summer.</b> A CDC study published in 2024 analyzed data from a five-year period between 1997 and 2022, revealing that 95% of outbreaks took place between May and August, primarily at public splash pads. The report identified 60 outbreaks during that span, with 91% of illnesses linked to <i>Cryptosporidium</i> , which can survive in chlorinated water. <b>In some cases, splash pads recirculated water without proper disinfection.</b> Just two norovirus outbreaks alone were responsible for 73% of splash pad-related emergency room visits during this period. <sup>lxv</sup>
<b>TO DO:</b>	Do not assume your town's splash pad is safe. Ask how the water is treated and whether it is recirculated or single-pass. If recirculated, well-maintained splash pads should filter and disinfect water between uses, but that's not always the case. Check if your local pad has a history of outbreaks or inspection issues. Remind kids not to put splash pad water in their mouths and keep them out if they are sick. With the right questions and a bit of caution, families can greatly reduce the risk of illness and help ensure a healthier, safer summer. <i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a>.</i>

**Photos/ Visual Representations:** Regarding toy/recreational activity photos available on the W.A.T.C.H., Inc.'s website ([www.toysafety.org](http://www.toysafety.org)), please note: The photos and images relating to the summer safety press release and press conference are used for visual aid purposes only, and are not intended to focus on a specific manufacturer, distributor, retailer or product. Rather, these images and photos represent categories of potential summer safety traps. The Summer Safety list of hazards differs from W.A.T.C.H.'s annual "10 Worst Toys" List released in November for the holiday season, which identifies specific products that are representative of types of hazards in the marketplace. **Products:** Any reference to, or photographic representation of, specific products herein neither constitutes nor implies a recommendation or a criticism of such products, but rather is used only as visual examples to aid in the discussion of the types of potential hazards discussed.

W.A.T.C.H., Inc. is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization working to educate the public about child safety. W.A.T.C.H. helps raise awareness about the dangers lurking in many toys, children's products, and recreational activities. Consumer advocates, Joan Siff, James Swartz, Edward Swartz (1934-2010), and W.A.T.C.H., have been responsible for the **"10 WORST TOYS" nominees** released for over 47 years as well as a **Summer Safety Report** addressing summer hazards for children. For more information on W.A.T.C.H. and the press conference, please visit [www.toysafety.org](http://www.toysafety.org) or follow us @WATCHsafety on Twitter and Facebook. **Joan E. Siff**, President of W.A.T.C.H. & Board Member, Franciscan Children's. **James A. Swartz**, Director of W.A.T.C.H., noted trial attorney, author, and consumer advocate.

## Other Sources lxvi

i https://www.cbsnews.com/news/tomb-raided-mass-imperial-beach-umbrella-south-carolina/  
ii https://www.newsjax.com/news/florida/2024/05/24/new-beach-rules-aim-to-prevent-death-by-umbrella-injuries-more-common-than-you-might-think/  
iii https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Guides/Outdoors/Beware-Airborne-Beach-Umbrellas-Can-Kill  
iv https://www.cpsc.gov/3fs-public/SafetyAlert\_2000\_BeachUmbrellas\_05/2024.pdf?VersionId=uvovD1Mh7ZTzJTY2S2QvUDXLy1AIAwN  
v https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2024/Federal-Recall-Safety-Branded-J-Kids-Garden-Sets-Due-to-Lead-Poisoning-Hazard-Violation-of-Federal-Ban-on-Lead-In-Paint-Sold-Exclusively-by-Costco-Wholesale--text%2Fno%2Findividual%2CCommissioners%20may%20have.explain%20the%20situation%20to%20PSC.  
vi https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2024/Thousands-Recalled-Theft-Infants-Gardening-Tools-Sets-Due-to-Violation-of-the-Federal-Phthalates-Ban-Sold-Exclusively-on-Amazon  
vii https://www.cpsc.gov/cgibin/NEISSQueryData/Highlights/2023/2%20NEISS%20Data%20Highlights%20page.pdf  
ix https://prc-public-health.uowa.edu/2024/04/04/serious-child-injuries-from-lawn-mowers/  
x https://www.newsonline.com/good-news/little-girl-saves-strike-drowning-vacation/  
xi https://www.kiro7.com/news/trending-now/dramatic-video-shows-10-year-old-girl-rescuing-3-year-old-sister-whose-nearly-drowned-in-pool/95467892/?  
xii https://www.cpsc.gov/3fs-public/Tor\_Related\_Deaths\_and\_Injuries\_Calendar\_Year\_2018.pdf?WM0dY9UsafFCMZpqOxpBoqncPVoIduDN  
xiii https://www.cdc.gov/safefchild/drowning/index.html  
xiv https://www.cdc.gov/drowning/data-research/facts/index.html  
xv https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/newsroom/records-releases/senators-baldwin-casny-collins-introduce-efforts-law-to-ban-deadly-water-beds-and-protec-kids  
xvi https://newsfeedmedia.com/cityoflosangeles/toddler-chokes-to-death-on-balcon-gleecemusicnews/9449498.com  
xvii https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/09/us/politics/injuries-in-children-caused-by-toys-on-the-free-tum\_source=chicago.com  
xviii https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Water-Beds-Information-Center  
xix https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2024/Toy-Guns-Recalled-Due-to-Eye-Injury-Hazard-Failure-to-Meet-Federal-Safety-Regulations-for-Projectile-Toys-Sold-Exclusively-on-Temu-com-by-Yoyou  
xx https://www.healthchildren.org/english/safety/prevention/on-the-go/Pages/E-Scouters.aspx (APR. July 2019)  
xxi https://www.yahoo.com/news/were-wild-oid-auffer-le-breastless-235900952.html?guccounter=1&guce\_referrer=aHR0MTBMLjY3d3dzZmVudXNkS88gauc\_refe\_rer\_s\_gn=AQAAMPBuzTzwW5YuUWajqh3v19rCx6aX2bzYReVUEVEhbvbKvaSk8f90e5qphVQSRSfLRBmBH\_H\_bvTyQ47Fs-BaQSAJ2i  
KT02zuGAPTt8ZVLuaXQXbaWHPB0b13DyEEdLHqSKvNN8OTDSNDNP7TOT\_Zx  
xxii https://www.cpsc.gov/3fs-public/Tor\_Report\_2023\_Final\_wCoverPage.pdf?VersionId=E78YVLKOIId\_eb994wlwMKP9UGAz  
xxiii https://www.cpsc.gov/3fs-public/Tor-Related-Deaths-and-Injuries-2019.pdf  
xxiv https://www.cpsc.gov/3fs-public/Tor\_Report\_2023\_Final\_wCoverPage.pdf  
xxv https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2024/7/28/06/electric-scooter-and-bike-accidents-are-soaring-across-us  
xxvi https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2024-09-27/u-s-e-bike-and-scooter-injuries-are-soaring  
xxvii https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/29/health/bikes-safety-trends.html  
xxviii https://www.aao.org/eye-health/tips-prevention/injuries-fireworks-survey  
xxix https://www.cpsc.gov/3fs-public/2023-Fireworks-Annual-Report.pdf  
xxx https://www.cpsc.gov/3fs-public/2023-Fireworks-Annual-Report.pdf  
xxxi Fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts. Know the Dangers (WWLP Digital First, June 14, 2021)  
xxxi https://www.cpsc.gov/3fs-public/2023-Fireworks-Annual-Report.pdf  
xxxi https://www.cpsc.gov/3fs-public/2023-Fireworks-Annual-Report.pdf  
xxxi https://www.aao.org/eye-health/fireworks-aerial-sparker-accident-eye-injury  
xxxi https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/GCI-Burne-Recalls-Playground-Merry-Go-Rounds-Due-to-Crush-Hazard  
xxxi 3-Year-Old with Beaufort and Ferry Personality Dies in Freak Accident at Daycare Playground, (People, May 19, 2021)  
xxxi https://www.cpsc.gov/cgibin/NEISSQueryData/Highlights/2023/2%20NEISS%20Data%20Highlights.pdf  
xxxi https://www.cpsc.gov/newsroom/News-Releases/2021/Think-Safe-First-Aids-Kids-Head-Belt-Is-School (August 2021)  
xi https://www.nationalchildrensorganization.org/research/archives-of-research-center-for-injury-research-and-policy/injury-topicalreports-recreation/playground-safety-children-younger-than-6-years--text%2Fplayground%20injury%20facts&text%20month%20common%20cause%20of.from.%20drowning%2C%20straining%20or%20pores.  
xi https://www.nationalchildrensorganization.org/research/archives-of-research-center-for-injury-research-and-policy/injury-topicalreports-recreation/playground-safety-children-younger-than-6-years--text%2Fplayground%20injury%20facts&text%20month%20common%20cause%20of.from.%20drowning%2C%20straining%20or%20pores.  
xi https://onsafety.cpsc.gov/blog/2012/05/08/drowning-not-alone!  
xii https://www.cbsnews.com/photos/slideshows/stories-children-drown-one-inch-two-inches-water/  
xiii www.lostmattimes.com/hush/hush/hearbreaking-tragedy-in-easton-10-month-old-baby-drowns-in-water-bucket-in-decalat-ai/19/  
xiv https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regional/9245517/month-old-baby-drowns-in-water-bucket/story/ogoo\_rewarded  
xv https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/national/article77644158.html  
xvi https://mfm.com/news/local/toddler-girl-drowns-in-port-neches-is-just-an-accidental-terrible-tragedy (KFDM, May 2022)  
xvii https://www.cdc.gov/drowning/facts/index.htm  
xviii https://www.cpsc.gov/Newsroom/News-Releases/2022/CPSR-Report-Shows-Fatal-Child Drownings Remain-High-Nonfatal Drowning-Injuries-Spiked-by-17-Percent-in-2021  
i https://www.cpsc.gov/3fs-public/Pool-or-Spa-Submersion-Estimated-Nonfatal-Drowning-Injuries-and-Reported Drownings-2022.Report.pdf?VersionId=KJapFPsqARVid\_oUSimCE1HlEQ  
i https://www.thebump.com/swim/pool-drowning-dangers-at-home  
ii https://www.bbc.com/news/health/articles/cqp12m15zo  
iii https://www.nytimes.com/2024/08/04/us/boy-killed-beach-house.html  
iv https://www.cbsnews.com/photos/slideshows/stories-children-drown-one-inch-two-inches-water/  
v https://abc7chicago.com/makal-40ren-dry-trampolin-area-closes-fundraising/5102074/  
vi https://www.cpsc.gov/cgibin/NEISSQueryData/Highlights/2023/2%20NEISS%20Data%20Highlights%20page.pdf  
vii https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/14452/Tamponoles-can-cause-serious-injuries-use-shield  
viii https://www.utep.edu/newsfeed/2022/utep-usps-uses-rocks-on-risk-associated-with-bounce-houses.html  
ix https://www.enews.com/enews/jeffsmith/bump/103/10/BAMS-%21-0180.1.xml  
ix "Tempestades What You Need to Know," AAP Publications (January 1, 2021)  
ix https://news.cdc.gov/mm/volnum/73/wk36/2008a1.htm?\_id=ref7308a1\_w  
ix https://web.archive.org/web/201512011184/http://health.ny.gov/prsocs/seasons/2005-2006/09-01\_school\_precautions\_season\_hike\_release.htm  
ix https://www.cdc.gov/mm/volnum/71/wrmm1131a1.htm?\_id=mm7131a1\_wprint  
ix https://www.cdc.gov/mm/volnum/73/wk36/2008a1.htm?\_id=mm7308a1\_w  
ix https://www.cdc.gov/mm/volnum/73/wk36/2008a1.htm  
ix Other Sources: \* Toys That Kill by Edward M. Swartz, \*\*Accs: Injuries and Death Statistics in the U.S., unless otherwise specified, Injuries: result to injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms.

**W.A.T.C.H.'s Annual 2025 Summer Safety Report**

**W.A.T.C.H. ANNOUNCES ITS  
"10 SUMMER SAFETY TRAPS FOR 2025"**

**UNDER-RECOGNIZED and HIDDEN HAZARDS  
KIDS COULD ENCOUNTER THIS SUMMER**

**WHAT PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS NEED TO KNOW TO HELP KEEP KIDS SAFE  
WARM WEATHER HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL PRODUCTS**

ON W.A.T.C.H.'S LIST OF 10 POTENTIAL SUMMER SAFETY CONCERNS FOR KIDS:  
AIRBORNE BEACH UMBRELLAS, GEL BEAD BLASTERS,  
IMPROPERLY MAINTAINED COMMUNITY SPLASH PADS, TOXIC GARDENING TOYS,  
AND BACKYARD KIDDIE POOLS WITH RAINWATER

**Boston, MA (JUNE 23, 2025):** As summer is officially underway and families are flocking to backyards, beaches, and playgrounds, **World Against Toys Causing Harm, Inc. (W.A.T.C.H.) releases its critical 2025 Summer Safety Report.** The report, vital for every family planning to enjoy the warm weather, **features W.A.T.C.H.'s 2025 "10 Summer Safety Traps."** **Consumer Advocates Joan E. Siff, President of W.A.T.C.H., and James A. Swartz, Director of W.A.T.C.H.,** showcase these "10 Summer Safety Traps" as representative of some of the many different types of hazards families can avoid to safeguard children during the summer when kids will be spending more hours swimming, riding, climbing, and playing backyard games. The report spotlights safety traps that have recently been linked to child injuries and fatalities or historically have been known to pose risks to children, and are often overlooked, underrecognized, or hidden.

**This year's "10 Summer Safety Traps" include:**

1. Don't Let it Fly: Beach Umbrellas
2. Playing in the Dirt: Gardening Toys & Yard Hazards
3. False Sense of Security: Inflatable Pool Toys
4. Double Trouble: Toy Projectiles & Ammo (Water Beads & Balloons)
5. Small Wheels, Big Risks: Scooters (Motorized & Non-Motorized)
6. Too Hot to Handle: Fireworks and Sparklers
7. Playground Perils: Deadly Straps & Dangerous Structures
8. Shallow But Serious: Baby Pools
9. High-Flying Hazards: Backyard Trampolines
10. Germs in the Mist: Splash Pad Dangers

Joan E. Siff and James A. Swartz are urging families to stay informed and remain vigilant, as some safety traps are hiding in plain sight. Joan E. Siff, President of W.A.T.C.H., states, "Familiarity or popularity should never be mistaken for safety." Siff adds, "Many seemingly harmless summer activities can have devastating consequences, particularly for younger children. As families

look forward to enjoying the summer, it's crucial to stay informed and proactively address these hidden dangers. Parents can arm themselves with the information to help prevent the unthinkable. Knowing what to look out for is one of the most powerful safety tools for a safer summer."

While agencies like the CPSC and CDC play a vital role in consumer safety, they're often underfunded, understaffed, and limited in their ability to act quickly. "Delays in the safety oversight process can leave children vulnerable, even as new hazards continue to surface. Recalls are a necessary backstop, but they often happen too late," said James A. Swartz. "Too often, hazards are discovered only after a child is injured, and not all unsafe products are necessarily recalled. Families should remember that while government alerts, studies, and recall systems are key safety nets, offering at least a baseline of protection in a massive children's marketplace, there are many more hidden hazards that often are either not addressed or slip through the cracks."

While most preventable injuries occur near home, accounting for a significant proportion of injuries and deaths, the risks extend beyond traditional backyard play; hazards encompass airborne beach umbrellas, contaminated splash pad water, and inflatable pool toys, such as water wings, tubes, and rafts, that can slip off, tip, deflate, or drift away. These toys have been involved in near-drowning incidents, partly because they may give a false sense of security. Unsecured beach umbrellas, particularly dangerous in windy conditions, have caused severe injuries and fatalities, with children especially vulnerable due to their smaller size and limited ability to react quickly. Splash pads, popular summer attractions, have resulted in numerous outbreaks of illness, often tied to improperly maintained water systems. Awareness and vigilance remain essential, as these hazards may not be widely recognized but pose serious risks during summer activities.

**W.A.T.C.H. stresses that many of these injuries are preventable** and that raising awareness is key. By sharing information and keeping safety top of mind, families and caregivers can help children enjoy a safer summer. **Full details on the "10 Summer Safety Traps" are available in the attached report, which W.A.T.C.H. hopes will serve as a resource to ensure a safer summer for all children.**

#### **About W.A.T.C.H.**

*World Against Toys Causing Harm, Inc. (W.A.T.C.H.) is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about dangerous children's products and advocating for child safety. W.A.T.C.H. works year-round to promote safer manufacturing and marketing of toys, aiming to prevent injuries and save lives through greater awareness and more stringent safety standards.*