

## Backyard Safety in the Summer

Summer... the time for relaxing in the yard and enjoying some sun! Here are a few tips to keep your backyard safe. Whether you enjoy entertaining family and friends, or prefer to sit back and relax alone, there are a few things you should do to ensure your summertime safety.

Basic safety checklist:

Make sure there is adequate lighting for any walkways and stairways.

Ensure walkways are clear of loose objects that may block the path.

Secure garbage can lids.

If a pool is accessible, make sure it is surrounded by a fence and has a self-locking gate;

Water is a serious hazard to small children. A child can drown in as little as two inches of water. If you have any sort of water feature in your yard, there should always be a designated adult to monitor children, as well as a locked gate surrounding it.

Check for structural sufficiency of porches and sheds, etc.

Trampolines are another source of fun, but can also bring danger. There are many injuries per year related to trampoline use. Limit number of jumpers at one time. Make sure there is adequate supervision provided. Utilize an enclosure so no one can fall off the trampoline while jumping. Ensure it has been properly installed.

If there are pets in the home, or visiting, check the plants and vegetation you have – many are poisonous to animals.

Maintain firepits and barbeques at an adequate distance from the home. Ensure gas lines are connected properly.

This is not an all inclusive list. Summer is a time to get outside and enjoy the weather and company. By implementing safety measures, you can ensure you and your guests can have a safe and enjoyable visit.