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Store Your Pool Toys and Help Increase Swimming Pool Safety

By Gregory Fort

Excessive toy clutter upon a swimming pool deck or the areas around a built-in pool can lead to falls and serious injuries. Keeping the swimming deck areas clear will help reduce the risk of unnecessary falls. Children tend to pull out all of the pool toys then swap their preferences all day long. Moms and dads, doubling as life guards, have a constant job described as toy sorter.

Wooden decks adjacent swimming pools are notorious for being slippery. With children getting in and out constantly, the pool deck can quickly become an ice skating rink. If the deck is also cluttered with multiple rafts, noodles, beach balls, ducks and float rings, the chance of slipping on the deck increases.

Many people choose to throw their toys over the side of the pool into the yard. The toys may be out of the way, but when the kids use them again, they bring grass and dirt back into the pool. An alternative to throwing the toys overboard is to somehow neatly store them near the swimming area.

If your deck is large, and you don't mind giving up deck space, products are available both locally and online. The bench seat with storage underneath and separate container products both allow for storage of smaller toys and accessories such as goggles and fins. Both of these storage

The problem is where to put the toys, and keep them within reach, while people are swimming.

Kathleen Pike, the creator of Pool-Pockets, said "Dragging toys up from underneath the deck several times a day just wasn't working." The solution was to find a product that hung over the outside railing of the deck. Pike said she searched on the internet for available products but only found storage bins that take up precious deck space. That's when the idea began to create her own design.

"Since our pool deck is a main summer entertainment area, I wanted to create a storage system that complemented the nautical look of the deck" Pike said. Used fishing nets and natural hemp roping were selected as suitable materials. Pike then created a design by weaving used nets together and accenting them with shells and starfish.

After receiving many favorable comments on the Pool-Pockets, Pike was encouraged to further develop her product for sale. Many prototype pockets were created to perfect the weaving technique to make the pockets hang straight. The rope used to weave the pockets added another element of design. "Natural hemp rope must be whipped at the ends or the rope will fray" Pike said. "The new

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pockets are strong, attractive and provide a way to easily store pool toys out of the way" she said.

Pike currently sells three sizes of Pool–Pockets on the internet. Her original design was 4 ft. x 4 ft. to accommodate several pool rafts and noodles. Pike then added a 4 ft. x 8 ft. design for families with many pool toys to keep organized. One thing Pike noticed last year was small toys, such as snorkels and masks, collected at the bottom of the deep pockets making retrieval difficult. She has since designed a smaller, 2 ft x 2 ft pocket for small toys and accessories.

For additional information about Pool–Pockets, including photos and ordering information, you can visit Pike's website at

www.pool-pockets.com

Gregory Fort is a partner in Pool–Pockets – Your Pool Toy Storage Solution

5 Swimming Pool Cover Tips

By David Evermon

5 Things to look for when choosing a swimming pool cover

Swimming pool covers come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and general types. There are solar swimming pool covers that work to keep the water warm as well as warm the water using the sun's heat. Safety pool covers do just what it says it does, it keeps the swimming pool safe from unwanted entry of humans or animals. In ground and above ground winter swimming pool covers, keep dirt, debris, and animals out of your pool during the winter season. It also prevents growth on the inside of your swimming pool that can be caused by the winter elements.

Here are a few things you should look for when shopping for a pool cover for your above ground or in ground swimming pool.

1. Find a swimming pool cover that is strong and sturdy. The cover should not only keep your swimming pool clean, it should add safety as well for humans and animals alike. It should prevent accidental drowning and dirt and debris from entering the pool.
2. Make sure the swimming pool cover conforms to state and local law requirements. Some areas require that a certain size and depth of pool be covered when not in use. There are specific requirements that these covers must meet. Check with your local authorities to ensure that your swimming pool cover meets the requirements needed.
3. Make sure your chosen swimming pool cover comes with a good manufacturer's warranty. In general, the swimming pool cover should come with a warranty of longer than 2 years. It should definitely have a full 2–year warranty for all defects and longer for limited warranties. You only want a

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pool cover that can be trusted and is safe with a full warranty for a lengthy amount of time. you also need to be sure the company stands behind their products.

4. Make sure the pool cover has a good overlap length. You should buy a size that is a little larger than your pool. This will enable you to securely anchor the swimming pool cover without having to worry about not being able to cover your pool completely.

5. Make sure the swimming pool cover comes with enough parts to securely anchor the cover without worry of slippage. Most larger swimming pool covers come with a strap or anchor for every four feet of cover. You definitely want a good amount of anchoring so the cover will continue to be secure each time you use it.

There you have it! The top 5 things you should look for when you are buying a swimming pool cover for any size pool and for any material type. You can purchase quality swimming pool covers at your local swimming pool supply store or at any department store that sells swimming pool gear and supplies. Carefully read all instructions provided by the manufacturer and ensure that the cover meets all requirements in your local area. Always think safety first when you own a swimming pool.

David Evermon has been involved in many swimming pool construction and maintenance projects, David writes articles about swimming pool cleaning and maintenance at

<http://poolcleaning.zupatips.com>

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