

## Automatic Safety Pool Covers are a Viable Alternative to Fencing

*\*All references to "Covers" refer to Automatic Safety Pool Covers in compliance with A.S.T.M. F 1346 - 91 Standard.*

- **Covers have an unblemished record.** Since 1960, when pool covers were first introduced, there has never been a drowning in a pool or spa equipped with an automatic safety pool cover.
- **Covers are the equivalent of a "horizontal" fence.** A pool cover is the only barrier that prevents access to the pool itself. Fences and other "vertical" barriers, at best, prevent access to the area surrounding the pool. Once within the fence, access to the pool is unrestricted.
- **Covers not only seal the pool, but also eliminate visibility of the pool water.** This prevents children from being drawn toward the pool by their natural attraction to water.
- **Covers eliminate the danger posed by the children's fascination with floating objects.** Claims have been made that brightly colored toys and other objects floating in pools attract young children and contribute to the numbers of children drowning in residential pools.
- **Covers do not impede the view of the pool area.** Fences and walls may inhibit the view from the home or other areas in the yard to the pool area.
- **Covers can be monitored from a distance as to their closed and secured position.** When viewed from the house it can be difficult to discern whether a gate is secured. With a pool cover, the pool's security level is obvious.
- **Covers do not reduce the usable space available in back yards.** Particularly where pools are installed in small back yards, fences effectively reduce the space available for other uses. Covers only eliminate the pool itself.
- **Covers offer several non-safety benefits, including ease of maintenance and economic savings.** According to surveys conducted by the National Spa and Pool Institute, after safety, the greatest concerns of pool owners are maintenance and operating costs. When a pool is covered, operating costs are virtually eliminated.
- **Covers have a standard in place that assures their proper installation and adherence to rigid safety requirements.** A.S.T.M. F1346-91 is a standard that mandates specific warning labels and explicit performance criteria. These criteria mandate, among other requirements, that small children must be unable to operate the pool cover or access the pool without an adult presence.

