



Summer Safety and Maintenance Tips

Warm weather brings summer fun and outdoor activities. Allstate offers the following tips and suggestions for keeping your summer safe and fun, and to avoid potential hazards. As always, we encourage you to use your own good judgment and, when necessary, consult the assistance of a professional. For more information, please visit Allstate.com, or Disastersafety.org.

BBQ SAFETY

- Check gas connections for leaks by applying a soapy water solution (when applied, bubbles will form if gas is escaping)
- Replace damaged or corroded gas tanks
- Keep grill clean of particles, dust, cobwebs and grease
- Remove lava rocks and grates for a thorough cleaning with soap and warm water
- Don't leave a burning grill unattended
- Be extremely careful when lighting a grill, using only charcoal lighter fluid **before** lighting it (not gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable or combustible liquid)
- Never use wood, charcoal briquettes, lighter fluid or gasoline in conjunction with your propane or natural gas barbecue
- Barbecue in an open outdoor space for ventilation purposes and always keep a fire extinguisher handy
- Never fight a grease fire with water – this will only cause the flames to flare up
- Turn off the gas when not using the grill by turning the gas knob clockwise
- Allow your barbecue some significant cooling off time prior to covering it
- After every use, shut off the gas and store it in an outdoor location away from children's play area, out of direct sunlight and at least five feet from any building openings at or below the level of the propane tank

BOATING SAFETY

- Have at least one U.S. Coast Guard-approved/UL-Listed personal flotation device for each person on board (appropriate for each passenger's size). Inflatable swimming aids (rafts, water wings, etc.) are essentially toys and should not be used as a substitute for a PFD.
- Pay attention to the capacity label on your boat and be careful not to overload small boats with passengers and/or gear
- Inspect your boat. Check that fuel pump is sturdy and contains no cracks. Inspect the bilge pump to ensure all fuel build-up has been cleared and no cracks have developed.
- If you own or plan on operating a boat, contact the local office of the U.S. Coast Guard to learn more about taking a boating safety course
- Sun and dehydration can heighten the effects of alcohol, so be aware and drink responsibly

POOLS

- In summer, with hot weather and pool parties, homeowners need to up their maintenance routines to account for:
 - Higher bathing loads (e.g., pool parties)
 - Algae: Use conditioner, also called a stabilizer, so that you don't waste chlorine. Conditioners retard the break-down of chlorine, helping to avoid algae growth

- Water testing: Testing (at least three times per day) reveals the state of your water so you can restore it to neutral. You can also bring water samples to a pool supply store for a more extensive assessment.
- Allow only polyester suits in the water
- Informing your pool service beforehand about parties, so adjustments can be made
- Run your filter longer and add chlorine after parties. Filters may need to be washed afterward.
- Operate filters at least two hours daily
- Remove organic debris regularly
- Practice supervision
- Install barriers
- Avoid entrapment
- Learn life-saving skills

Resources:

IBHS

Rainbow International

Weather.com

Underwriter's Laboratories

www.uscgboating.org

Visit [Allstate Be Aware and Prepare](#) and the [Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety](#) for more, helpful information.

06/26/12