



## ICC SAFETY BULLETIN

### CPSC Recalls Pool Drain Covers

The [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) (CPSC) has determined that some inground pool and inground spa drain covers were not correctly rated by independent laboratories offering protection against body entrapment. Critical commentary on this recall and debates on its effect on industry can be read immediately [here](#). It is important to know that not all manufacturers and not all drain covers are affected by the recall. To learn whether a particular model has been recalled, you can go to [cpsc.gov](#) website, the [apsp.org/draincoverrecall](#) website, go directly to the manufacturers' respective web sites or contact the drain cover manufacturer.

The [Association of Pool & Spa Professionals](#) (APSP) has also provided frequently asked questions (FAQs) for consumers and installers about the drain cover recall on their website, [apsp.org/draincoverrecall](#). In addition, a [free webinar](#) on the drain cover recall is available for builders, installers and service professionals.

### Are there any reports of injuries associated with the drain covers affected by the recall?

No, neither the Consumer Product Safety Commission nor the drain cover manufacturers are aware of any reports of injuries associated with the use of these drain covers.

### When were these drain covers manufactured and sold?

The drain covers in question were manufactured and sold after December 18, 2008.

They will either have the "VGB 2008" "ASME" or  logo.

### What pools and spas are subject to this recall?

- Wading (kiddie) pools and in ground spas regardless of the number of drains or additional anti-entrapment devices or systems
- Single drain pools with an SVRS, Vent System or Automatic Shut Off Switch

### What pools and spas are not the subject of the recall, even if they have the affected drain covers?

- Pools or spas with drain covers that were installed before December 2008. All of the drain covers affected by this recall were manufactured or sold after December 19, 2008.

- Pools or spas with unblockable drains. These will be rated and listed by the manufacturer as unblockable and include:
  - long "channel drains" 3" x 31" or larger.
  - Other large drains, typically 24" x 24" or larger.
- Hot tubs (a/k/a portable spas) are not affected by the recall, whether they are free standing, placed in the ground or surrounded by a deck
- Swimming pools (as opposed to built-in wading (kiddie) pools or in-ground spas) that have a multiple main drain system or a gravity drainage system are exempt from this recall.
  - Multiple main drain system means 2 or more drains connected to the same pump, spaced at least three (3) feet apart, center to center, which cannot be isolated. Where two drains are connected to separate pumps, they are each considered as single main drain.

### **How is wading, kiddie pool or in ground spa defined under this recall?**

- A kiddie or wading pool is defined as a separate pool designed for use by small children with an independent circulation system and a maximum water depth of 18 – 24 inches.
- An in ground spa is a permanent, non factory built hydrotherapy unit (in which the water heating and water circulation equipment is not an integral part of the product).

### **Are there other steps owners can take to make their pool or spa as safe as possible?**

Yes. Pool and spa bathers always need to practice basic and simple safety measures,

- Never use a pool or spa that has a broken or missing drain cover
- Never allow any bathers to play with or swim next to a drain cover
- Always make sure children are under constant adult supervision whenever they are in or around a pool, spa or any body of water

The CPSC offers several important brochures which should be provided to the public located at [www.poolsafely.gov](http://www.poolsafely.gov). The APSP also offers important safety information located at [apsp.org](http://apsp.org).

Every swimming pool tragedy points out how important codes are to promoting safety. To respond to the life-critical need for proper pool installation and operation (which includes its perimeters), the International Code Council, in cooperation with the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) is completing the development process for the new [2012 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code](#) (ISPSC). This comprehensive code references virtually every type of pool and spa installation, residential and commercial, naturally focusing on safety aspects of construction.

"In addition to more stringent safety testing of pool parts and mechanisms, we are highly optimistic that the ICC's new pool and spa code will help to dramatically reduce preventable pool-related accidents," Peters added. "As more and more jurisdictions

adopt and enforce the ISPSC, it will prevent many pool-related accidents and provide the highest possible level of public safety.”

“We are cooperating fully with the CPSC in this voluntary recall,” said Carvin DiGiovanni, APSP senior director, technical and standards. “Pool and spa safety is important to us and consumers should never use a pool or spa with a missing or damaged drain cover or leave children unattended near any body of water.”

For more information about the drain cover recall, visit [cpsc.gov](http://cpsc.gov) or the [apsp.org/draincoverrecall](http://apsp.org/draincoverrecall). To download a free copy of the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, Public Version 1.0, visit [www.iccsafe.org/ISPSCdownload](http://www.iccsafe.org/ISPSCdownload). Contact the PMG Resource Center for information about the Code Council’s Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas Codes at [PMGResourceCenter@iccsafe.org](mailto:PMGResourceCenter@iccsafe.org) or 1-888-ICC-SAFE, x 4764. To learn more about the Code Council’s Evaluation Services, visit [icc-es.org](http://icc-es.org) or call 1-800-423-6587.

*The [International Code Council](http://www.iccsafe.org) (ICC) publishes building safety, fire prevention and energy efficiency codes that are used in the construction of residential and commercial buildings. Most U.S. cities, counties and states choose the I-Codes based on their outstanding quality. The ICC’s Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas (PMG) Group is devoted exclusively to providing PMG products and support to jurisdictions and construction industry professionals across the country and around the globe, with one or more PMG codes adopted in all 50 states. The more than 200 superior products and related services were developed specifically by and for plumbing and mechanical professionals. Contact the PMG Group for additional information at 1-888-ICC-SAFE, x4PMG, [PMGResourceCenter@iccsafe.org](mailto:PMGResourceCenter@iccsafe.org), or visit [iccsafe.org](http://iccsafe.org).*