

# HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

## Fence Can Reduce Swimming Pool Risks

(NAPSA)—Make a fun summertime tradition safer by fencing in your swimming pool. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), more than 350 children under the age of five drown in swimming pools each year—most in residential pools. You can reduce the risk of accidental drownings by installing a fence around your pool.

Many communities require barriers around pools, but even if your community doesn't, putting up a fence makes good sense. A well constructed fence with self latching gates can significantly reduce the chances of children having unrestricted access to your pool.

Lori Harris, of Ace Fence Co., in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., has fenced in many pools. "I would highly recommend a barrier around a pool. There's no sense in taking unnecessary risks."

In addition to a perimeter fence, a fence between the home and the pool is recommended, especially for families with young children. "The number one potential drowning victim is a two year old boy, in his own pool," according to Fred Parker, CFP, past president of the American Fence Association. "We always recommend some type of barrier between the house and the pool."

To ensure the safety of your pool, the CPSC has issued some guidelines for pool fencing. The CPSC recommends fencing around pools be at least four feet high and



**Ornamental picket is a popular style of pool fence.**

include self latching mechanisms on gates. Other recommendations vary according to the style of the fence.

Many fencing materials are suitable for enclosing a pool, Harris said. "Some people like wooden fences for the privacy, and others like the looks of ornamental aluminum fence, while others use the screen-like baby fence," she explained. Vinyl and chain link fences are also used around pools. Harris recommends using mini mesh chain link to prevent children from climbing.

If you would like more information about the CPSC's recommendations for pool fencing or the name of a reputable fence contractor in your area, please call AFA at (800) 822-4342 or visit [www.americanfenceassociation.com](http://www.americanfenceassociation.com).