



## Open Water

### **Is there accessible water within walking distance of the property where children could access the water without you knowing?**

It may sound attractive to have open water at your door. But if you have children and there is no barrier between the water and your children, then you must be prepared to constantly supervise, not leave doors open, and oversee all outdoor play.

### **Are water symbols and safety flags used to indicate current conditions of the beach?**

Water conditions can change quickly and in some cases become dangerous to enter. Water symbols and flags should be used to indicate safe locations and water conditions. These symbols vary from country to country, so be sure to learn the local symbols.

### **Is boating and sporting equipment available for rent from licensed providers and are PFDs included?**

Having access to water sports can add to a vacation, but ensure that the equipment is in good condition, and that training and local safety tips are provided. It is estimated that wearing a PFD could prevent 85% of boating-related drownings. In some countries it is even the law.

### **Is there an area of the water designated for swimming only?**

It is not only more relaxing for swimmers, but it is safer to have separate zones for swimming and for water-sport activities, especially personal watercraft (i.e. jet-skis) and boating. Ideally these zones will be separated by flags, buoys or ropes.

## Swimming Pools

### **Is there a swimming pool on the vacation property?**

A pool on site can provide hours of fun, but if you have children you must be prepared to be on constant supervision. Is the pool fenced with a self-locking gate? One of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of drowning is by having a four-sided isolation fence with a secure self-locking gate. Keep the gate closed at all times. If the pool is instead secured with a cover or alarm, be prepared to immediately learn the system, but be aware these features can not replace supervision.

### **Is there a shallow wading area for young children to stand and play in?**

Having a toddler-friendly area allows children to explore water play more safely, and helps keep them out of riskier swim areas. But maintain supervision, young children can drown in very little water, or injure themselves by falling near the pool edges.

*(printed May 2007)*

