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Action Line

Limit hazards of pool drains

Many children, particularly in Florida, have died, lost limbs or been disemboweled when they were trapped by the powerful suction of a pool's or spa's drain.

Florida used to lead the nation in pool safety but its rules have fallen behind; they don't meet federal standards signed into law by President Bush in December.

Until the political wrangling is over, it falls to parents and homeowners to make sure their pools are safe.

The Pool Safety Consortium, poolsafetyconsortium.org, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission, cpsc.gov, offer advice and information on products that reduce the risk of entrapment.