



Asbury Park Fire Department Prevention Division

Bathtub Safety

Bathtub accidents are a major cause of injuries and even deaths in the United States as a result of drowning, falls, and other mishaps. By following these simple rules you can avoid becoming another bathtub statistic.

- ‡ **Supervise:** NEVER leave a child unattended in the bathtub for ANY REASON. There is nothing important enough to risk drowning! Children can drown in just a few inches of water, and can easily fall into the tub while you're running out to answer the phone, get a towel, etc.
- ‡ **Don't run to answer the phone.**
- ‡ **Don't check to see who's at the door.**
- ‡ **Don't leave your child to be watched by an older sibling.**

MAKE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE RULES!

- ‡ **Bath seats:** Several types of bath seats and rings adhere to the bottom of the tub with suction cups and offer bathing infants and toddlers support while sitting. Don't think that you can leave your child unattended. The suction cups can come loose, and it isn't hard for a child to slide out of the seats.
- ‡ **Be Prepared:** Collect soap, towel, diaper, clothing, toys, and any other items you plan on using before you even run the bath water. Place these items where you can reach them easily.
- ‡ **Prevent Burns:** To reduce the risk of scalding, set your home's water heater to a maximum of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. A good test: You should be able to hold your hand comfortably under the tap even when the hot water alone is running.
- ‡ **Faucet covers:** Placing a soft, insulated cover over the bathtub faucet is a prudent safeguard against accidental burns or bumps. They are available at many baby-supplies stores.
- ‡ **Slips and Falls:** Prevent bathtub slips and falls by placing a rubber mat in the tub or affixing non-slip adhesive decals or strips to the bottom of the tub. Use a towel or bath mat outside the tub to prevent slips.
- ‡ **Electrical hazards:** Keep electrical devices (including hair dryers, curling irons, and electric razors) well away from the tub.