



Stay safe this summer!

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With the weather warming up and summer fast approaching we are about to enter the most dangerous months for kids around the pool. The recently released Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2011 found that 42 children aged 0-14 years drowned in Australia between 2010/11. Of those deaths 16 of them occurred around family and public swimming pools. This is an alarming figure when the majority of these deaths could have been avoided.

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It is not surprising that 41 percent of all drowning deaths in Australia took place in summer and peaked in January. As a nation, we live in the water, from surfing to swimming, Australians can't get enough of it and most kids are in the water before they can walk or talk. But how do we avoid losing our kids to the Aussie summer lifestyle?

For over 15 years Royal Life Saving's Keep Watch program has been educating parents and carers on strategies to keep their children safe when in, on, or around the water by promoting the 4 Keep Watch actions:

- Supervise Your Child – Always be within arms' reach.
- Restrict Access to Water – Provide barriers to water locations.
- Be Water Aware – Introduce your child to water through water awareness classes; discuss hazards and put rules in place at aquatic locations.
- Learn Resuscitation – Resuscitation is a skill for life. A rapid response is the best response in an emergency.

Without a doubt, the most effective way to keep your kids safe around the pool is active adult supervision. Nothing beats keeping your eyes on your kids and even if you think they are excellent swimmers, accidents still happen. In 46 percent of all drowning deaths around swimming pools falls occurred immediately prior to the drowning. The effectiveness of active adult supervision cannot be underestimated.

But don't let that deter you from teaching your children to swim. It is still the best way to equip your child for a life around the water. In many cases knowing how to swim can make the difference between losing their life and keeping it.

Pool toys and products can also pose a threat to young children drawn to colourful toys left floating in the pool. Be sure to put all toys away after your time in the pool with the kids has come to an end.

While floaties and noodles are great products for kids to use as their confidence in the water is developing it can sometimes give parents a false sense of security regarding their child's swimming ability. Adult supervision is still vital even when your child is wearing floaties.

Drowning is preventable. If parents and carers put simple safety measures in place it is possible to radically reduce the number of young lives lost around the pool this summer.

Top DIY Tips to get your Bond Back!

We all know someone who's been a bit over zealous during their rental tenancy – and accidentally damaged their landlord's property. Here are a few DIY opportunities that may help you (or that friend) get themselves out of a sticky situation.

Most landlords genuinely have their tenant's best interests at heart, so when something needs fixing they make sure it gets fixed. With that in mind, if you're ever in the situation where you've damaged someone else's property and you're not sure what the best course of action is, sometimes there comes a time when you just have to front up and face the music.

Gyprock wall

Do you have a Gyprock wall or hollow core door with a hole in it? Thankfully, plasterboard companies have come up with these great new wall patches that allow you to patch a hole approx. 500mm in diameter. Simply stick it on (they come with adhesive backing) and apply a pre-mixed base, top coat and a trowel.

Paint

The key to repainting old walls is, and always will be, matching the existing colour. Get yourself a decent-sized sample of the existing area (approx. 4 sqm) and make sure you take that with you to any hardware or paint store to be colour matched. They can get any colour really close these days.

Carpet

Everyone at some stage has accidently knocked over a drink at home. For the ones less fortunate that have done it on carpet, my advice would be to act quickly. You can hire steam cleaning machines from places like Bunnings, so if you're tight on a dollar consider purchasing some Vanish carpet cleaner from the supermarket and a DIY steam cleaner.

Electrical / Plumbing

There's a good reason plumbers and sparkies must be licensed. My advice here, hands down, is to own up and engage a professional. Not only could you potentially do serious damage and cost yourself more money in the long run, but with electrical involved there's a very real possibility of death or serious injury.

Here's hoping the above has helped. At the end of the day, like mum said back in primary school, sometimes 'honesty is the best policy'.

Blueberry Peach Tart



Ingredients

- 1 Sweet Butter Pastry Crust (recipe here)
- 3 peaches, peeled & sliced
- ¾ cup fresh blueberries
- ¼ cup (50 grams) granulated natural cane sugar
- 1 egg, lightly beaten with a bit of water (this is called egg wash)
- 1 tablespoon coarse natural cane sugar (like Sugar in the Raw), optional

Instructions

Place a rimmed 11-inch by 17-inch baking sheet on the center rack of your oven. Preheat the oven to 200°C.

Meanwhile, place a large sheet of parchment, about the size of your baking pan, on a counter. Sprinkle a bit of flour on the paper. Place the crust on top, and roll out into a 12-inch circle (it doesn't have to be perfect).

Arrange the peaches and blueberries in the center of the rolled out dough, leaving a 2-inch border all around.

Sprinkle the granulated sugar over the fruit.

Fold the side over, covering the fruit halfway (the center should be open, almost like a fruit volcano).

Brush the dough with the egg wash. Sprinkle the coarse sugar on top, if desired. Slide the parchment paper, with the tart on top, onto the preheated baking sheet (this will be easier to do if you remove the pan from the oven momentarily).

Bake 40 to 45 minutes, until the fruit bubbles in the center, and the crust is a deep golden color. Transfer to a wire rack, and let cool at least 20 minutes before serving.

Serve warm with a dollop of fresh cream or vanilla icecream.

Homes for Sale

