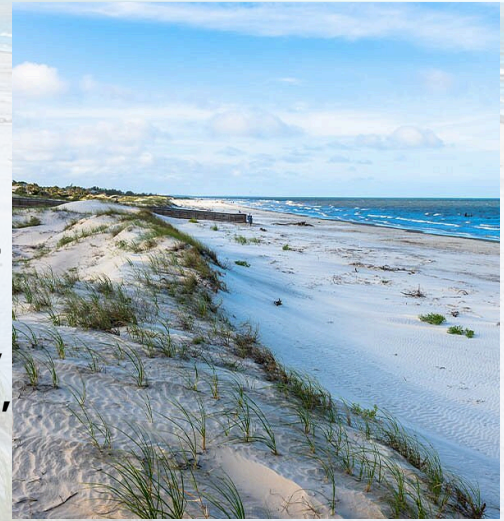




STAY WATER WISE: VACATION WATER SAFETY TIPS

Visiting coastal Georgia? Whether you're at a hotel, AirBnB, or rental home, water is everywhere's pools, rivers, lakes, and the ocean. Keep your family safe with these essential drowning prevention tips.



DON'T ASSUME SOMEONE ELSE IS WATCHING

- **Designate a Water Watcher's** a responsible adult who stays distraction-free while supervising kids in and around water.
- **Never rely on floaties or puddle jumpers** they provide a false sense of security and do not prevent drowning.
- **If a child is missing, check the water first** a seconds count!

NOW THE HIDDEN DANGERS

Pools & Hot Tubs:

- Ensure pool gates self-latch and stay closed.
- Remove pool toys when not in use kids may be tempted to reach for them.

Beaches & Open Water:

- Obey warning flags and signs currents can be deadly.
- Rip currents? Float & wave for help! Don't fight the current.

Rivers & Lakes:

- Life jackets are a must for boating and paddle sports drowning happens silently and quickly.
- Water can be murky don't jump in without knowing the depth.

Prevent Break-In's of Unsupervised Swimmers

- Lock pool gates and doors leading to water when not in use.
- Use alarms on sliding doors or pool covers for extra safety.
- Never assume kids won't sneak off a they're curious, and water is inviting

IF YOU SEE SOMEONE STRUGGLING IN THE WATER

- Reach, throw, don't go! Use a pool noodle, life ring, or towel to pull them in.
- Call 911 immediately.
- If you must go in, take a float with you to avoid becoming a victim yourself.

IN THE WATER

- Drowning is silent or get the Hollywood splashing; kids slip under quietly.
- Weak swimmers? Keep them within arm's reach.
- Cold water shock can happen even in warm climates ease in slowly.

BEACHES & OPEN WATER (COASTAL GEORGIA):

- **Obey warning flags and signs** – currents can be dangerous.
- **Tidal Changes:** Be aware that coastal Georgia experiences significant tidal changes, sometimes ranging from 6 to 10 feet. This can create strong underwater currents, especially around sandbars.
- **St. Simons Island:** While St. Simons Island may not have traditional rip currents, strong underwater currents created by sandbars can still pose a risk. Be cautious and aware of your surroundings.
- **Rip currents?** Float & wave for help! Don't fight the current.

LAKES & RIVERS (INCLUDING LAKE LANIER):

- **Lake Lanier:** Near Atlanta, Lake Lanier is a popular destination but has a high incidence of drownings. Be extra vigilant when swimming or boating.
- **Life Jackets are a Must:** For boating and paddle sports – drowning happens silently and quickly.
- **Murky Waters:** Water can be murky – don't jump in without knowing the depth.