

# Summer Safety Tips

Backyards, Pools, Barbecues and Travel

Our goal at RSA Canada is to equip our brokers with the proper tools to educate their clients—not only about the types of coverage they need, but also the different risks they should avoid.

We've created the following tip sheet to help our brokers' clients stay safe and enjoy the warm months ahead.

## Backyards



From pool parties to barbecues, summer is the season for fun with friends and family. And for many Canadians, the best summer retreat is literally in their own backyard.

As such, it's important that the proper safety measures are taken to ensure that everyone has a safe and fun time:

- Make sure that everything in your yard is safely installed and secured—swings, fences or tree houses—and that children are always supervised by an adult.
- Don't leave dangerous debris in your yard, such as trash, old household appliances, sharp objects, lawnmowers or old electrical cords.
- While entertaining outside, ensure you have appropriate receptacles for guests who smoke. Never use a flower pot, garden bed or the ground to discard cigarette or cigar butts, as this creates a significant fire hazard; in fact, it's actually a major cause of house fires.
- Did you know that drones and remote-controlled helicopters are considered "aircraft" and are usually excluded from coverage under a homeowner policy? Take extra caution if you're flying them outdoors.

## Swimming Pools



While cooling off in the pool sounds like the perfect activity, pools also pose potential dangers.

If you have a swimming pool, safety should always be a top priority. Everyone with a pool should take the following measures:

- An adult should always be present when children are around a pool.
- Homeowners with a backyard hot tub or swimming pool should ensure the yard is fully enclosed by a fence that's at least 4' high and has a self-closing latch, especially if kids or pets are present.
- If you have children, make age-appropriate swimming education a priority.
- Have floating devices and a first aid kit on hand at all times.

## Summer Safety Tips

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### Barbecues



We typically see an increase in fires started by open heat sources during the warmer months. Without the proper precautions, a good time can quickly become a dangerous situation.

Before you fire up the grill this year, make sure you know how to properly use, store and handle flammable liquids and their containers. Always take extra care around open fire and heat sources:

- Keep your grill away from combustibles, such as patio umbrellas, when lighting and cooking.
- Use charcoal briquettes and charcoal lighter fluids designed for non-gas barbecues, and remember to follow the instructions on the lighter fluid container. Never add lighter fluid after igniting your barbecue.
- Before storing your barbecue, dispose of the ashes by soaking them in water and place them in a covered metal container.
- If you have a gas barbecue, make sure the lid is open to prevent gas from accumulating when lighting it. Never ignite the grill with a match or cigarette lighter.
- When storing your gas barbecue, make sure the grill and tank are both turned off. Never store a gas grill indoors with the tank still attached.

### Summer Travel



Whether it's a quick road trip or a two-week vacation by the sea, you want to keep your home safe and secure from break-ins, vandalism and property disasters. Potential intruders lurking in the area can recognize when someone has been away for a long time, making your home an open target.

Follow some of these tips for securing your home to avoid filing an expensive claim when you return:

- Let friends or trusted neighbours know that you'll be away. Ask them to contact you if they notice any suspicious activity.
- Setting your lights up on a timer can help give the perception that people are home. Don't close all the blinds; keep some open to reinforce the perception you're home.
- Lock your valuables, important documents and hard drives in a safe place, such as a safety deposit box.
- Place a hold on mail, newspaper and other deliveries while you're gone. An overstuffed mailbox or a litter of newspapers across your front step can draw attention to your house.
- Ask a neighbour to park in your driveway every couple of days to make your home look occupied.
- Turn off the main water supply tap when going on holiday—pressurized water pipes connecting to washing machines, refrigerators and toilets can rupture, causing extensive water damage.
- Ensure you turn off your automatic sprinkler systems to avoid risk of a breakdown, which could potentially cause water damage to your yard and home.

For more information, talk to your broker.