

Covered! News from PowerPlastics Pool Covers, July 2015

This month: Child safety - cars are doing it, pools should be doing it too!

There has been a lot of buzz with regards to seat belt laws for children and, since 1 May 2015, motorists who do not strap children younger than three years old into car seats will be fined up to R500. It makes good sense. The statistics are hard to ignore when it comes to children and seat belts.

We just wish more people would see pools in the same light. They are no less risky than cars yet the statistic **'a child under the age of three is more likely to die by drowning than in a car accident'** does not shock us to the same degree as infant mortality rates on the roads. Pool safety legislation is just as important as the one just introduced for seat belts and we, together with the pool industry, remain committed to driving awareness through education and bringing about the same level of recognition for pools when it comes to risk.

We've spoken about legislation a lot over the years. So where are we now? Well, first, one must remember that pool safety for children is about layers of safety—combining adult supervision and other responsible behaviours with a safety device (or multiple devices) that restrict access to the water. These are the changes in behaviour that all who own pools must adopt and advocate. However, to ensure that at least one method of safety is incorporated into every domestic pool, city decision makers have moved towards enforcing this through a national Standard and the SABS is in the process of developing the Standard for pool safety. This is not new though. It was legislated in the 1960s and even into the 1970s—a law that one had to protect a pool against children entering it has actually existed in SA before. However these old Standards are no longer in use, and the behaviour slipped back into more of a self-regulating outlook rather than something one is legally obliged to comply with.

The SABS draft Standard — SANS 10134 — is an advisory document for pool builders and pool owners to better understand safety around private swimming pools. It advises on how to make one's pool safe and it provides some measures on what constitutes a safe private pool. If or when it will be passed as a National Standard and then become part of the Building Act is unknown at present. But let's also look beyond compliance and the red tape. Let's adopt the safety thinking as a way of life, a habit, a good choice, the same way you would buckle up in a car.

The PowerPlastics Solid Safety Cover has become THE safety cover of choice in SA. It complies with international legislation (in the absence of compelling SA legislation), and our cover meets all ASTM F1346.91 requirements. For your information, these American guidelines are as follows, in a simplified format:

- *The cover must carry the weight of 220 kgs, or two adults and a child.*
- *Children should not be able to gain access to the water and objects greater than 9cm x 14cm x 30cm in length must not be able to access openings.*
- *Surface drainage must be such that water drains within 30 minutes from the surface.*

Furthermore, it is important that children are unable to open the cover themselves (tensioning devices) and that the installation is undertaken by an accredited installer. Read on for more info about our unique safety cover. A reminder too about our two new colour options designed to cut energy consumption by 50%.

Suffice to say, our safety cover is the perfect way to winterize a pool this year and shut it down for the chilly months. Your kids will be kept safe, you will save water (good news for those in water-restricted areas like Stellenbosch) and receiving your electricity bill will become a lot less traumatic too. Let's face it - Eskom is hardly going to complain if we all start using less of their product! It is somewhat ironic that I write this note by candlelight in the middle of loadshedding!

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TopStep is an educational blog conceptualised to address the many questions arising from the proposed pool safety legislation, as well as gain better awareness around pool safety and child drowning prevention. Anyone is free to contribute and intelligent debate, personal stories and pool safety tips are welcomed.

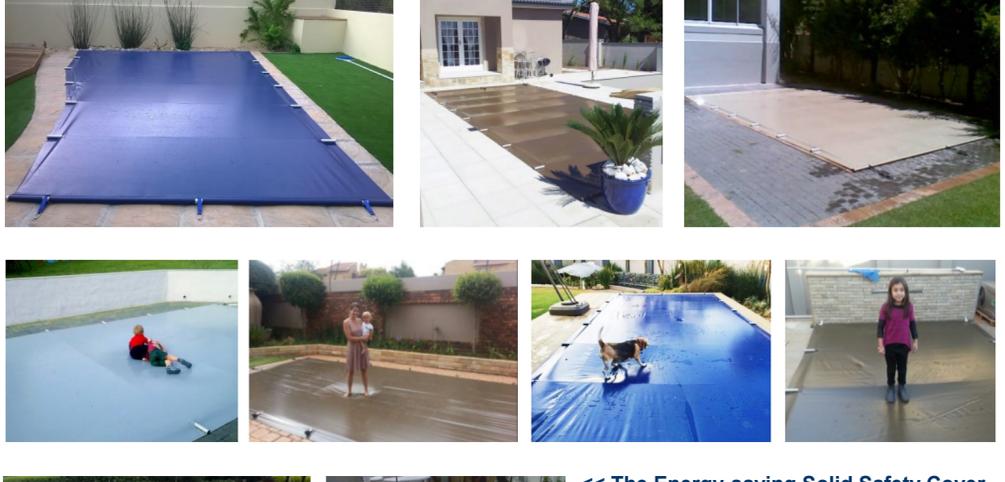
If you would like to get involved and promote the cause among your own networks, we'd love to hear from you. If you are a swimming coach or water sport professional, let us add your logo to TopStep and list you as a supporter! Email us on info@topstep.co.za and visit www.topstep.co.za to learn more.



The PowerPlastics Pool Covers Solid Safety Cover - a snapshot of SA's safety cover of choice

- **The leading safety cover in SA** with a design and quality that remains unparalleled,
- **Conforms to international safety standards:** supports the weight of two adults and a child (220kg)
- **No fiddly hooks and eyelets:** some people incorrectly believe that without hooks and eyelets, the cover is not 100% safe. In fact, what makes this cover safer than its predecessors with hooks and eyelets is the superior tensioning system and the fact that its opening devices cannot be operated by a child.
- **Drainage system:** drainage holes in our cover ensures that water drains into the pool, never accumulating on the cover. There is very little water after a storm that will accumulate on the cover.
- **Tamperproof:** the ratcheted strapping system makes it difficult for a small child to tamper with the cover.
- **Colours:** A variety of colours mean this cover can blend into the look and feel of the outdoor living area. Comes in Blue/Black, Black, Racing Green, Brown and StoneGrey.
- **Power, water and chemical savings:** because the cover forms a barrier directly over the water thereby blocking exposure to the natural elements, it reduces filtration times, chemical consumption and water evaporation is curbed by 98%+.
- **Automation options:** while the cover is already easy to use, it can be automated with a Rollup Station such as the Vektor or SafetyRoll, to aid use of the cover.
- **Pet safety:** a great cover to prevent animals from drowning.

Click [here](#) to visit our Downloads page on our website and view a selection of videos of the PowerPlastics Solid Safety Cover, including a clip demonstrating the weight tolerance. For more product specs and features, click [here](#).



<< The Energy-saving Solid Safety Cover
 The cover has the same specs as the PowerPlastics Solid Safety Cover but choose from two colour options in order to get the energy-saving benefits - StoneGrey/Black and Blue/Black.
 By preventing light entry into the water, algae cannot grow. This allows for 50% less filtration/power consumption, as well as a reduction in chemical consumption. Safe and sustainable - the perfect cover for winter pools!

Recent customer feedback on the PowerPlastics Solid Safety Cover
I love this cover! Definitely the best!!! Not only is it strong and durable (children and dogs running on ours) but it looks stylish and keeps loved ones safe from drowning! Thank you PowerPlastics Pool Covers!

Vektor: a new way to automate your PowerPlastics Solid Safety Cover



Although this is not essential and a manual safety cover is very easy to use, one of the biggest risks when it comes to child safety is when parents can't be bothered to re-cover their pool after swimming. The Vektor, available exclusively from us, eliminates the temptation to be negligent and lazy about re-securing the pool after use. It is the most cost-effective way to semi automate your pool cover when fully-automated covers are not in your budget.

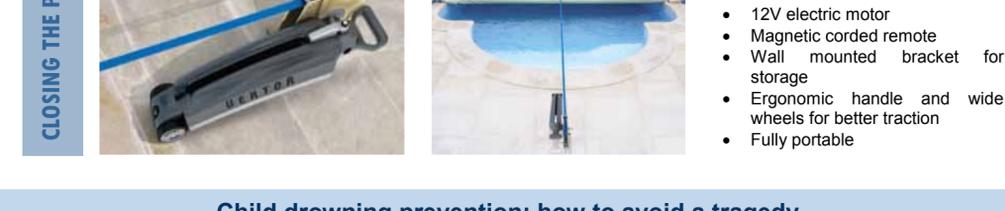
The lightweight, portable unit is slotted into the battens of the PowerPlastics Solid Safety Cover. When the gear motor is engaged, it rotates the cover's battens to open or close the pool for swimming.

Click [here](#) to request a quote.

Simply attach to the aluminium bars of the PowerPlastics Solid Safety Cover, engage the motor via the corded control and the unit propels itself along the pool's paving at the same time as the cover, rolling the cover in.



To re-cover / close the pool, the nylon webbing strap is attached to the first batten on the leading edge of the cover. Once the motor is engaged, the cover is rolled out over the pool via a durable nylon strap.



- Features -----**
- 12V electric motor
 - Magnetic corded remote
 - Wall mounted bracket for storage
 - Ergonomic handle and wide wheels for better traction
 - Fully portable

Child drowning prevention: how to avoid a tragedy

Unfortunately, many accidents occur purely because those nearby believe they know how to identify a drowning in progress - loud cries for help, arms thrashing in the water, clear signs of struggle etc. In fact, drowning does not look like that at all. It is silent and quick. Parents and caregivers should familiarise themselves with the real signs and be aware that the appearance of a drowning can vary widely. A guide to the appearance of drownings is available for download [here](#).

Why you should act immediately
 The majority of children who survive are discovered within two minutes following submersion, and most children who die are found after 10 minutes. Nearly all who require CPR die or are left with severe brain injury.
 All caregivers and parents should take a CPR course. If a child is found lifeless in a pool, start CPR and don't stop until Emergency Services arrives.



Layers of safety: 3 behaviours to safeguard children around the pool

- 1. Adult supervision**
 A child in trouble will struggle for only 20 seconds. It is imperative for the child to be within arm's length of an adult at all times. Never leave children unattended around the pool and if there are several children swimming, have two to three adults supervising. At pool parties, ensure the children know who is in charge if they need to call for help, and never let an adult who has been drinking or is on sedative medicine supervise children in the pool.
- 2. Pool safety devices**
 Solid safety covers are widely regarded as the single most effective barrier to entry as they completely seal off the water and a child cannot squeeze through the sides. Other recommended devices are nets and pool fences. Never use flotation devices such as water wings for pool safety.
- 3. Swimming skills**
 While swimming lessons don't make a child drown-proof, a child with strong swimming skills is at considerably less risk of drowning. Choose an accredited swimming school and start lessons young. Once your child has the basic skills, teach him/her to swim fully clothed and with shoes on. Make swimming a regular and fun family activity so the swimming skills aren't lost.

For other tips and guides, visit www.topstep.co.za

About PowerPlastics Pool Covers

PowerPlastics Pool Covers manufacture an innovative range of pool cover solutions, taking an insightful approach to product development and promoting a lifestyle choice, not just a pool cover. Our solutions are always innovative, directly addressing issues affecting South African pool owners. We have tailored a range of thermal pool covers in response to local crises including the ongoing electricity and water crises and the need to shrink carbon footprints in the domestic setting. With remarkable high performance thermal pool covers, PowerPlastics Pool Covers is widely regarded as the leading supplier of covers for the eco-conscious pool owner and runs a broad educational campaign regarding the environmental impact of swimming pools.

Child safety around pools is of paramount importance at PowerPlastics Pool Covers, giving parents peace of mind with the PowerPlastics Solid Safety Cover, one of the most effective and easy to use methods of securing your pool on the market. We are educators in this field too and consistently seek to educate pool owners on the drowning risk of open pools. PowerPlastics Pool Covers is also the founder of educational blog TopStep, the home of pool safety, an online platform for both the industry and public to better understand the nature of child drownings and local legislative requirements.

At the top end of the market is the fully automated imported system, Starline Roldeck. This top of the range cover offers true modern convenience and adds the perfect finish to the 'no expense spared' home.

Also available is the PowerPlastics JetStreams, a state of the art range of counter current jets with a system for every requirement, from the professional swimmers wanting a flat current just below the surface to train in, to focused jets for soothing massage. The vast range of JetStreams' applications extends from meditative relaxation, to focused massage and athletic exercise, all in the privacy of your own home.

PowerPlastics Pool Covers has teams servicing Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth, George, Vereeniging, Nelspruit, Bloemfontein, Hoedspruit, Pietermaritzburg and Polokwane. Our superior manufacturing and locally unparalleled designs combined with an unfailing customer centric approach are what sets us apart in the industry. Visit www.powerplastics.co.za for more info.