



Diversified Product Inspections, LLC

DPI Investigator

News & Updates

Monthly Newsletter

1991 to 2009

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Be Safe When Grilling & Barbecuing

Be sure to start the outdoor season right by making sure your grilling equipment is in proper working order. Some simple safety tips will protect you, your family, and friends from minor or serious injury caused by malfunctioning outdoor grills.

Grilling Safety Tips

1. **The foundation on which the grill is placed is important. Wooden decks with slats can cause an unstable surface that may cause the grill to tip over. Be sure the grill is level and does not rock.**
2. **Grills are equipped with grease catchers and hot ash pans. Be sure these are clean and in the proper position.**
3. **Carefully consider the location of the grill and do not place it close to wooden structures or other flammable materials.**
4. **Check all supply line connections on LP gas grills at the tank and burner connections using soapy water, which will create bubbles if a leak is present. Control knob areas should be checked in the same manner. (Soapy water: 1 part dish soap, 4 parts water)**
5. **A brief inspection of the grill before each use will help prevent explosive fires.**

Unfortunately, there will be accidents from faulty grills or due to improper use by consumers. Some of the faulty grills will probably be recalled and a notice issued by the CPSC— (seems to happen every spring and summer season). DPI will keep you updated if we receive any malfunctioning grills that show a pattern of failure or if a particular grill goes on recall.

Have a Safe and Wonderful Summer!

**Diversified Product Inspections LLC
1059 E. Tri-County Blvd.
Oliver Springs, TN 37840
1 (800) 865-6220 www.dpi-inc.com**



Useful Water Heater Information

Using DPI's database, we found that the average cost of a normal storage-type water heater that has a tank can range anywhere from \$295.00 to approximately \$599.00. The reason the price range is so broad is that you can choose between electric and gas types.

Depending on which type of water heater you select, you might spend a small fortune to heat your water (many of the options have to do with the size of the tank). The average life expectancy of these storage-type water heaters is anywhere from 10-15 years and the warranties can range anywhere from 6 to 12 years. The reason they are categorized as storage-type tanks is because they store the heated water until you turn the faucet on. Some of the main water heater manufacturers in the U.S. are A.O. Smith, American Water Heater Co., Ruud, Rheem, American Standard, Apollo, Bradford-White, U.S. Craftmaster, and State Industries.

Most of the failures DPI has investigated that are associated with the storage-type tank water heaters involve:

- Small Holes (created by rust over time)
- Deterioration of the Anode Rod
- Temperature & Pressure Relief Valves
- Installation Failures
- Seam Leaks/Faulty Tank Welds

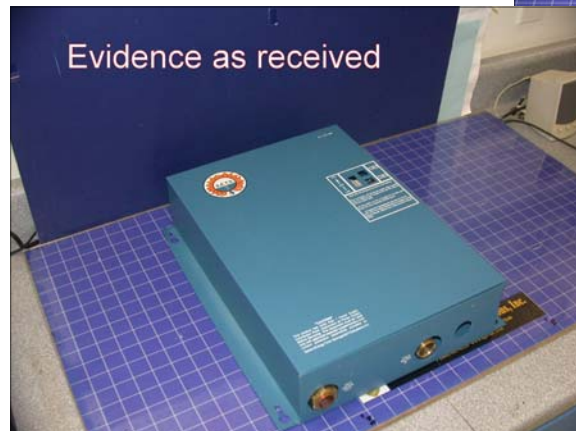


Research conducted on tankless water heaters revealed that most of them have a life expectancy of more than 20 years. Although they are more expensive than the storage-type water heaters, ranging from \$159.00 to \$1,159.00, they are the safer alternative. Through all the research, it is clear that they use less electricity, saving as much as 40% on the electric bill. Another benefit is that replacement parts are less expensive and easier to replace.

Many of the tankless-type water heaters promoted online have a 12-year limited warranty. Using a tankless water heater is currently thought to reduce the risk of flooding in the home compared to traditional storage-type tank water heaters. This is especially true for heaters installed in certain regions with mild climates where they can be mounted on outside walls. It also provides endless hot water at a consistent, safer temperature. A good informational web site that might help if you are considering purchasing a tankless water heater is: www.tanklesswaterheaterguide.com/.

DPI has not received too many tankless water heaters, but of the ones we have received, the main failures are as follows:

- Burned Heating Elements
- Thermostat Failures



**Source: DPI Database
Research Assistant
Hanna Coker**

CPSC Report on Child Drownings / Near drownings in Pools and Spas *Federal Pool and Spa Safety Act Aims to Make Pools and Spas Safer*

Memorial Day signals the opening of pools across the country. A [new report](#) (PDF) released today by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) provides updated figures on child drowning deaths and injuries in pools and spas. CPSC's latest data reveals that nearly 300 children younger than 5 drown in pools and spas each year, and about 3,000 suffer pool or spa-related injuries requiring attention at hospital emergency rooms.

About two-thirds of the pool and spa-related deaths and injuries involve children ages 1-2, with about 80% of the drowning fatalities occurring in residential settings, such as the victim's home, a family or friend's house or at a neighbor's residence. [New data](#) (PDF) from CPSC also shows that from 1999 through 2008, there were 83 reports of pool and spa entrapments, including 11 deaths and 69 injuries. Since 1999, 14% of the reported suction/entrapment incidents at pools or spas were fatal.

"Preventing child drownings is a key part of CPSC's mission. I call upon all parents, caregivers and pool and spa operators to ensure that fencing and other layers of protection are in place; that there is constant supervision of children in and around the water; and that new, safer drain covers that prevent entrapment incidents are installed," said Acting Chairman Nord. "The Pool and Spa Safety Act (P&SS Act) went into effect on December 19, 2008 and requires all public pools and spas to have anti-entrapment drain covers, and in certain circumstances, an additional anti-entrapment system. CPSC has prioritized public wading pools, kiddie pools and in-ground spas as the key areas of focus for enforcement and has called upon state departments of health to assist the agency in enforcing the law.



Drowning occurs more commonly when children get access to the pool during a short lapse in adult supervision. To reduce the risk of drowning, pool owners should adopt several layers of protection, including physical barriers, such as a fence completely surrounding the pool with self-closing, self-latching gates to prevent unsupervised access by young children. If the house forms a side of the barrier, use alarms on doors leading to the pool area and/or a power safety cover over the pool. In addition, reports of children exiting the house via a pet door have been on the rise.

Outdoor Play Sets Sold at Toys“R”Us Recalled

The U.S. Consumer Product **Safety Commission**, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a **voluntary recall of the following consumer product**. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: Step2 Play Up Gym play sets. **Units:** About 4,300. **Manufacturer:** The Step2 Company LLC, of Streetsboro, Ohio. **Hazard:** The triangular hangers that attach the swing's ropes to the upper rail of the play set can break, posing a fall hazard to children. **Incidents/Injuries:** Step2 has received 17 reports of hangers breaking. No injuries have been reported. **Description:** This recall involves Step2 Play Up Gym play sets. The recalled outdoor play sets include a platform, climber, slide area and two swings and have a model number of 797300. A red "Step2" logo plate is attached to the front of the play set. Play sets that have hangers with white plastic bushings are not subject to this recall. **Sold at:** Toys "R" Us stores nationwide from January 2009 through April 2009 for about \$400. **Manufactured in:** China (hanger component), United States (play set). **Remedy:** Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled play sets and contact Step2 to receive a set of replacement hangers and instructions.



Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Step2 at (800) 347-8372 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.step2.com