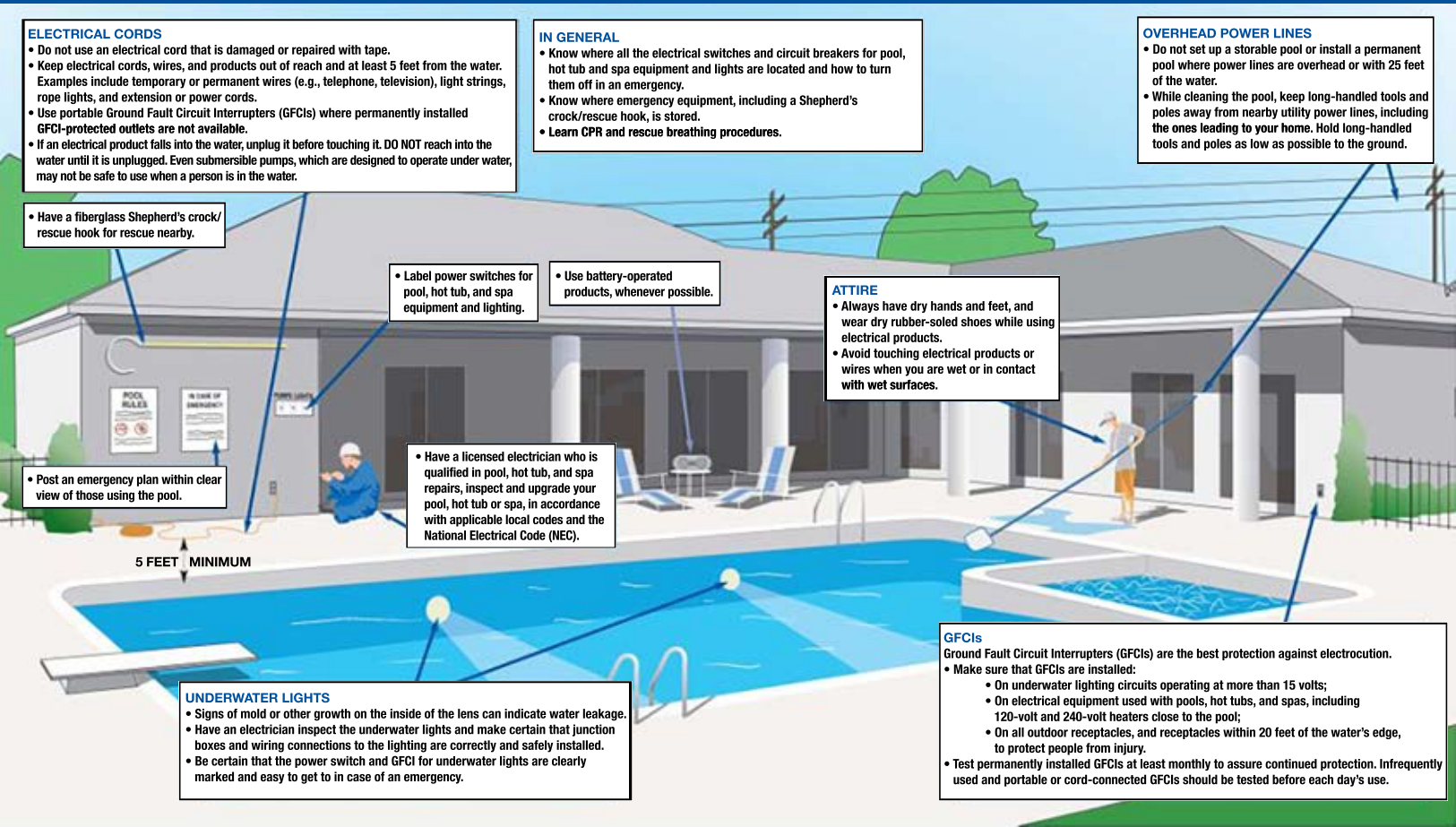
Ways to Protect Yourself and Others from Shock or Electrocution



ELECTRICAL CORDS

- Do not use an electrical cord that is damaged or repaired with tape.
- Keep electrical cords, wires, and products out of reach and at least 5 feet from the water. Examples include temporary or permanent wires (e.g., telephone, television), light strings, rope lights, and extension or power cords.
- Use portable Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) where permanently installed GFCI-protected outlets are not available.
- If an electrical product falls into the water, unplug it before touching it. DO NOT reach into the water until it is unplugged. Even submersible pumps, which are designed to operate under water, may not be safe to use when a person is in the water.

IN GENERAL

- Know where all the electrical switches and circuit breakers for pool, hot tub and spa equipment and lights are located and how to turn them off in an emergency.
- Know where emergency equipment, including a Shepherd's crock/rescue hook, is stored.
- Learn CPR and rescue breathing procedures.

OVERHEAD POWER LINES

- Do not set up a storable pool or install a permanent pool where power lines are overhead or with 25 feet of the water.
- While cleaning the pool, keep long-handled tools and poles away from nearby utility power lines, including the ones leading to your home. Hold long-handled tools and poles as low as possible to the ground.

- Have a fiberglass Shepherd's crock/rescue hook for rescue nearby.

- Label power switches for pool, hot tub, and spa equipment and lighting.

- Use battery-operated products, whenever possible.

ATTIRE

- Always have dry hands and feet, and wear dry rubber-soled shoes while using electrical products.
- Avoid touching electrical products or wires when you are wet or in contact with wet surfaces.

- Post an emergency plan within clear view of those using the pool.

- Have a licensed electrician who is qualified in pool, hot tub, and spa repairs, inspect and upgrade your pool, hot tub or spa, in accordance with applicable local codes and the National Electrical Code (NEC).

5 FEET MINIMUM

UNDERWATER LIGHTS

- Signs of mold or other growth on the inside of the lens can indicate water leakage.
- Have an electrician inspect the underwater lights and make certain that junction boxes and wiring connections to the lighting are correctly and safely installed.
- Be certain that the power switch and GFCI for underwater lights are clearly marked and easy to get to in case of an emergency.

GFCIs

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) are the best protection against electrocution.

- Make sure that GFCIs are installed:
  - On underwater lighting circuits operating at more than 15 volts;
  - On electrical equipment used with pools, hot tubs, and spas, including 120-volt and 240-volt heaters close to the pool;
  - On all outdoor receptacles, and receptacles within 20 feet of the water's edge, to protect people from injury.
- Test permanently installed GFCIs at least monthly to assure continued protection. Infrequently used and portable or cord-connected GFCIs should be tested before each day's use.