

## SPA (HOT TUB) DANGERS

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) helped develop standards to prevent hair entanglement and bodypart entrapment in spas, hot tubs, and whirlpools. These standards should help prevent deaths and injuries. The Links At Gettysburg has already complied with recent laws to replace drains and drain covers. CPSC warns about these hazards:

- **Drownings** -- The main hazard from hot tubs and spas is the same as that from pools - drowning. Since 1990, CPSC has reports of more than 800 deaths in spas and hot tubs. About one-fifth of those were drownings to children under age five. Users should keep children away unless there is constant adult supervision.
- **Hair Entanglement** -- Since 1990, CPSC has reports of 43 incidents (including 12 deaths) in which people's hair was sucked into the suction fitting of a spa, hot tub, or whirlpool, causing the victim's head to be held under water. Hair entanglement occurs when a bather's hair becomes entangled in a drain cover as the water and hair are drawn through the drain. In some incidents, children were playing a "hold your breath the longest" game. Permitting their long hair to be sucked into the drain. Never allow a child to play in a way that could permit the child's hair to come near the drain cover.
- **Bodypart Entrapment** -- CPSC knows of 74 incidents since 1990 in which parts of the body have been entrapped by the strong suction of the drain of pools, wading pools, spas, and hot tubs. Of these, two resulted in disembowelment and 13 other people died. The Links At Gettysburg has already complied with recent laws to replace drains and drain covers to prevent serious injury, however, it is always advisable to not allow children near the drains in any way.
- **Hot Tub Temperatures** -- CPSC knows of several deaths from extremely hot water (approximately 110 degrees Fahrenheit) in a spa. High temperatures can cause drowsiness which may lead to unconsciousness, resulting in drowning. In addition, raised body temperature can lead to heat stroke and death. In 1987, CPSC helped develop requirements for temperature controls to make sure that spa water temperatures never exceed 104 degrees Fahrenheit. **Pregnant women and young children should not use a spa before consulting with a physician.**