

# Stay Safe When It's Hot Outside

When it starts to get hot outside, there are important steps you can take to keep yourself and your friends and family safe.

**Never leave children, people with disabilities, or pets inside a parked vehicle when it's hot.**

## Stay Cool

- Stay in the shade, in air-conditioning if you can, or in cool places such as basements.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- Take cool showers.
- Use fans, but don't rely on them as the only way to stay cool.

## Stay Hydrated

- Drink more water than usual, especially if you are exercising or being active outdoors.
- Be proactive, don't wait until you are thirsty to drink water.
- Don't drink alcoholic and caffeinated beverages.

## Stay Informed

- Follow local weather and news reports.
- Sign up to for weather alerts at [vtalert.gov](https://vtalert.gov).
- Check Health Department and Vermont Emergency Management social media.

## Listen to Your Body

- Take it easy when it's hot.
- Reduce outdoor work and exercise and limit it to the cooler parts of the day.
- Ask for help if you feel sick.
- Stop what you are doing if you feel faint or weak.
- Be more cautious if you have a chronic health condition.

## Don't Be a Stranger

- Call your loved ones and neighbors to check on them, especially if they are older or have chronic health conditions. If going in person, wear a cloth face mask or covering, keep a 6-foot distance, and wash your hands before and after your visit.
- Make sure they are drinking enough water and staying cool.
- Remind them to take heat seriously.

## Cool Your Home

- Draw shades to keep out the sun.
- Close windows during the day when it's hotter outside than inside.
- Open windows at night when it's cooler outside than inside.
- Use fans to blow in cooler outside air or vent out warmer inside air.

- Limit use of the stove, oven and other heat-generating appliances.

## Know the Signs and Symptoms of Heat Illness

### Heat Exhaustion

#### Signs and Symptoms

- Faint or dizzy
- Excessive sweating
- Cool, pale, clammy skin
- Nausea or vomiting
- Rapid, weak pulse
- Muscle cramps

#### What to do:

- Drink water.
- Try to cool down by getting to a shaded area, getting to a cooler, air-conditioned place, taking a cool shower, or using a cold compress.
- Call 9-1-1 if these symptoms worsen or continue after drinking water and trying to cool down.

### Heat Stroke

#### Signs and Symptoms

- Throbbing headache
- No sweating
- Temperature above 103°F
- Red, hot, dry skin
- Nausea or vomiting
- Rapid, weak pulse
- May lose consciousness or signs of confusion

#### What to do:

- Call 9-1-1.
- Take immediate action to cool the person down until help arrives.