



Beach Safety

Inflatables

Inflatable toys, airbeds and small dinghies are great fun in a pool, but can be dangerous when used in the sea. If you insist on bringing an inflatable to the beach, please take the following precautions to minimise the risk of an accident:

- Only use an inflatable between the red and yellow flags.
- Always follow the advice given by the lifeguard.
- Never take an inflatable out in strong winds, or when you see large waves.



Why it's not a good idea to take an inflatable into the sea.

- A wind blowing off the land makes the sea look calm, flat and apparently safe, but it can sweep an inflatable out to sea very swiftly.
- It only takes a slight breeze to blow an inflatable out to sea.
- Surf conditions are particularly dangerous for inflatables.

REMEMBER: if an inflatable is drifting out to sea, don't go after it. And if you notice someone is being swept out to sea on an inflatable, tell a lifeguard or call the coastguard immediately on telephone number 999.



Know Your flags



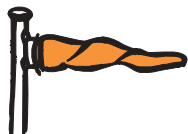
Red and yellow flags mark areas of water that are patrolled by lifeguards. These are the safest places to swim.



When you see black and white chequered flags, it means an area of water has been marked for use by craft. For your own safety, do not swim in these zones.



The red flag indicates danger. Never enter the water when the red flag is flying.



An orange windsock flying at the beach indicates that wind conditions are especially dangerous - so under no circumstances should you take an inflatable into the sea.



Always Remember F.L.A.G.S.

Find the red and yellow flags and swim between them.

Always swim where there is a lifeguard on patrol, and stay inside the area marked by the red and yellow flags. Never swim where a sign says not to, or when the red flag is flying.

Look at the safety signs.

Always read and obey the safety signs - they will help you to avoid potential dangers on the beach, and to identify the safest areas for swimming.

Ask a lifeguard for advice.

If in doubt, it is always best to play it safe and ask the experts.

Get a friend to swim with you.

Make sure there are other people around, because you never know when help might be needed.

Stick your hand in the air and shout for help if you get into difficulty.



Emergency

- **If you see someone in trouble**

Someone shouting for help

Waving an arm above the head

Orange smoke

These are all signals that someone needs help

- **Do not enter the water to rescue anyone**

To do so would put you at risk

- **Never chase into the sea after an inflatable toy**



Keep Out of Danger

- **Keep an eye on the tides**

To avoid getting into difficulty always check the tides before you enter the water. Equally be careful not to get cut off by the tide when walking along the shore and make sure children playing on the beach are not in danger of the tide.

- **Watch out for waves**

Waves are formed by the wind blowing across the surface of the sea. The longer the wind blows the bigger the waves will be. How steeply a beach shelves will also affect the size and type of the wave.



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To get further free beach safety advice and resources contact the RNLI at
www.beachsafety.org.uk or telephone 0800 328 0600



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