

WAVES



There are three different types of waves found that swimmers need to be aware of to ensure they enjoy the beach more safely.

SURGING WAVES

Surging waves may never actually break as they approach the water's edge, as the water below them is very deep. These waves are very dangerous as they can knock swimmers over and drag them back into deep water.

SURGING WAVE

SPILLING WAVE

PLUNGING/DUMPING WAVE

SPILLING WAVES

Spilling waves usually have less force and are the safest for body surfing. They are usually found in sheltered bays where the sea floor slopes gradually and near sandbanks at high tide.

PLUNGING OR DUMPING WAVES

These waves break suddenly and can throw you to the bottom with great force. Plunging or dumping waves also cause rip currents to form. These waves usually occur at low tide and where sandbanks are shallow and can cause injuries to swimmers, particularly spinal and head injuries. Never try and bodysurf on a dumping wave!

For further information please contact
Surf Life Saving Queensland on (07) 3846 8000



Stick your hand up for help.

Get a friend to swim with you.

Ask a lifesaver for some good advice.

Look at the safety signs.

Find the flags and swim between them.

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