



DON'T swim in canals or rivers and DON'T jump off bridges into water.

You could put your life at risk!

In the Netherlands, it is prohibited by law to swim:

- in shipping channels of rivers and canals
- along ferry routes
- near waiting areas and mooring places (even if no boats are currently moored there)
- in and near harbours
- by bridges, locks, weirs and floating barriers
- in areas designated for fast boat traffic
- anywhere else marked by prohibitory signs

Jumping off bridges is also illegal: you could be fined

€140,-

While swimming, you may not notice an oncoming boat

Bridges can be higher than you think. Jumping or diving off could cause a punctured lung or broken bones

Objects under water can cause serious wounds and other injuries

Even good swimmers can be overwhelmed by strong currents and eddies

Waterway inspectors are authorised to issue warnings and fines as appropriate. In the event of an accident or fatality, they also help the emergency services to find missing persons

Moving vessels create backwash, which can drag swimmers under water

A swimmer is difficult for a large commercial vessel to spot, and hard to avoid over a short distance

Water temperatures can fluctuate. Cold water can cause cramp, shock or hypothermia